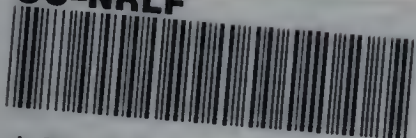


UC-NRLF



\$B 286 433

REGISTER

1897-98

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

GIFT OF

J. Burt Lavy.

Accession

86714

Class

THE

PLEASURE VISITOR'S

Companion

TO THE

ISLE OF WIGHT,



The Arched Rock, Freshwater Bay.

COMPREHENDING

Every Information at all interesting

TO STRANGERS MAKING THE

Tour of the Island.

By GEORGE BRANNON, ARTIST,

WOOLTON COMMON, L.W.

Price 1/- With the Map 3s. Without 2s.

W. SHARLAND,
BOOKSELLER, STATIONER,
BOOKBINDER, AND PRINTER,
33, HIGH STREET, SOUTHAMPTON,

Adjoining the Dolphin Hotel.

ENGRAVING,

LETTER-PRESS & COPPER PLATE PRINTING.

DRAWING MATERIALS,

PLAYING AND ADDRESS CARDS.

TOURISTS' WRITING CASES.

*Bibles, Prayer Books, Church Services, Companions
to the Altar, Pietas, &c.,*

IN MOROCCO AND PLAIN BINDINGS.

ALBUMS, AND SCRAP BOOKS.

BLOTTING AND CARD CASES.

THE ANNUALS, POCKET BOOKS,

Almanacks, Diaries, and Housekeeping Books.

**PERIODICALS AND OTHER WORKS SUPPLIED ON THE DAY
OF PUBLICATION.**



RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2007 with funding from
Microsoft Corporation

THE

Pleasure Visitor's Companion

IN MAKING

THE TOUR

OF THE

ISLE OF WIGHT,

POINTING OUT

the best plan for seeing in the shortest time

EVERY REMARKABLE OBJECT.



East End, Undercliff, I. W.

Embellished with views of the Country Inns, &c.

BY G. BRANNON.

WOOTTON, I. W.

Pub^d by the Author, Wootton, I. W.




DA670
W6B6

P R E F A C E

TO THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL EDITION.



ALL PUFFING has been avoided in the compilation of the following pages ; whether to gratify interested friends, or to improve the style by too liberal a use of *elegant* and superlative epithets—often creating an expectation in the mind of the stranger, which will be disappointed on the first view of the object so blazoned forth with unmerited encomiums.

But though the author's aim has been throughout to sketch with the strictest fidelity and sobriety of colouring ; yet as scarcely two persons will ever give the same measure of praise to any one object,—so of course will there often be a considerable difference of opinion between him and his readers on questions of taste and local beauty ; but it is to be hoped, that however great such difference may be, his veracity will not be too hastily impugned.

PREFACE.

This work having been twenty-four years before the public, during which time it has gone through as many editions, it may be repeated without arrogance or “puff,” that it is indebted for its success to the unvarnished style of its descriptions; a perspicuity of arrangement, and *a condensation of those particulars which are known from experience to be most useful to THE HASTY TOURIST*; advantages which distinguish it from its many rivals, both of home and metropolitan production: to say nothing of its *accuracy*, which must be an after-test, but may be inferred by the *purchaser* from the circumstance of the writer being an *Artist*, and a *Resident for above forty years*.

Wootton Common, I.W., June, 1857.

C O N T E N T S .



CHAP. I.—GENERAL DESCRIPTION,	9
Climate, Situation, and Extent,	11
Geology, Agriculture, and Zoology,	14
Commerce and Population,	18
History of the Island	20
Eminent Natives	24
CHAP. II.—THE SCENERY of greatest interest.	
Sect. 1. Bembridge Cliffs,	25
— 2. SHANKLIN Chine and Village,	27
— 3. From Shanklin to the Undercliff,	31
Luccombe and East End	—
— 4. THE UNDERCLIFF,	33
Bonchurch,	36
Ventnor,	39
Steephill,	42
St. Lawrence,	43
Change in the Scenery,	44
Old Park, Cripple-path, &c.,	45
Exclusion from the Country Seats,	47
— 5. The Undercliff near Niton	48
St. Catharine's Light-house,	49
Sandrock Spring,	50
Blackgang Chine,	51
Wreck of the ship "Clarendon,"	54

CONTENTS.

Sect. 6.	St. Catharine's Hill, . . .	55
	The Country between Blackgang Chine and Freshwater-gate, . . .	56
— 7.	THE FRESHWATER CLIFFS, . . .	58
	Freshwater Bay, . . .	60
	Scratchell's Bay—Grand Arch, . . .	63
	The Needle Rocks—Alum Bay, . . .	64
— 8.	Character of the Prospects, . . .	67
CHAP. III.—ARCHITECTURAL OBJECTS.		
Sect. 1.	The Principal Seats, . . .	73
— 2.	Carisbrooke Castle, . . .	83
	Quarr Abbey, . . .	86
— 3.	Conspicuous Objects on the Downs, . . .	87
CHAP. IV.—TOWNS AND VILLAGES.		
	Newport—Carisbrooke Village, . . .	89
	Ryde and its Environs, . . .	97
	Cowes and its Environs, . . .	105
	Arreton, Brading, Bembridge, &c. . .	113
CHAP. V.—THE TOURS, . . .		
	„ „ from Ryde, . . .	122
	„ „ „ Cowes, . . .	124
	„ „ „ Newport, . . .	126
	Voyage round the Island, . . .	128
The Passage and Conveyance. LISTS of Hotels, Inns, principal Seats and Country Villas, &c.		





CHAPTER I.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE ISLAND.

LOCAL ADVANTAGES.

“THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND” has long been a very favorite designation of the ISLE OF WIGHT, and we believe but few of its visitors dispute its claim to this high distinction. For it is scarcely possible for any spot in Europe to concentrate, within the same narrow bounds, more of those qualities which at once charm the eye and animate the soul. Its picturesque scenery, its admirable insular position, local conveniences, mildness and salubrity of its climate, with the very cheerful aspect of the country in general, altogether constitute it a most desirable retreat for both the permanent resident and casual visitor, whether they wish for the restoration of health, or the pursuit of pleasure,—the gaiety of busy life, or the tranquillity of rural seclusion.

The boldest features of scenery are exhibited along the eastern and western quarters of the island, from White-cliff Bay at Bembridge, to the magnificent range of precipices at Freshwater-gate and the

Needles-point: at both these places the character is nearly the same—*grand and impressive*. But along the south-eastern coast, from Shanklin to Blackgang Chine, the scenery is a happy combination of the *beautiful and romantic*, the *sublime and terrific*. The greater part of this interesting tract is called THE UNDERCLIFF, presenting for several miles a succession of highly picturesque objects, in some respects quite unique.

The interior of the island is distinguished more for its agreeable interchange of hill and dale, wood and cultivation, than for any very romantic or sublime effects. But, considering the extent of the island, its lofty intersecting downs (so remarkable for their beauty and variety of outline) are certainly quite as picturesque as the vast heaving swells of a more mountainous region. Solemn magnificence characterises the one,—soft and cheerful diversity the other.

“The almost perpetual succession of hills and dales which cover the Isle of Wight,” observes Mr. STURCH, “creates such a variety of breaks and openings, that the eye of the traveller is continually entertained with new and surprising landscapes of Nature’s exquisite painting. It is here that the love of novelty and variety, so natural to the mind of man, is most highly gratified, and at an easy expense;—it is but changing one’s position, for

which a quarter of an hour's walk is sufficient, and the scene is cast into a new form ; it is varied by so many new lines and new disclosures of land and water, that it no longer appears to be the same thing."

A great and INCREASING source of attraction, especially to invalids, is the very favorable

CLIMATE.

Constantly enjoying refreshing sea-breezes, improved by the dry and highly-cultivated face of the country, the AIR is found by experience to be extremely salubrious. In open, elevated situations, it is clear, sharp, and bracing ; but in all those parts which are screened by high downs and cliffs, it is remarkably mild, yet pure and dry : so that invalids and convalescents may easily avail themselves of a change of air, more congenial to their constitutions.—It is a common remark, in proof of the mild temperature of the climate, "that myrtles, which love a soft marine exposure, are found to grow here with astonishing luxuriance, and even tender exotics thrive as if in their native beds."

Dr. JAMES CLARKE, in his excellent Treatise on the Influence of Climate in the Cure of Chronic disorders, confirms the popular opinion : he says...

"The island, from the variety which it presents in point of elevation, soil, and aspect, and from

the configuration of its hills and shores, possesses several peculiarities of climate and situation, which render it a very favorable and commodious residence throughout the year, for a large class of invalids. On this account the Isle of Wight claims our particular attention, as it comprehends within itself advantages which are of great value to the delicate invalid, and to obtain which, in almost any other part of England, he would require to make a considerable journey."

And he further remarks, that "the Undercliff bids fair to exceed all other winter residences in this country, and the Isle of Wight will have added to its title of the Garden of England, that of the **BRITISH MADEIRA.**"

Niton, Cowes, Sandown, Shanklin, and Ryde, are particularly recommended by Dr. Clarke for summer residences.

Situation, Form, Extent, &c.

The Isle of Wight is situated opposite the coast of Hampshire, and separated by a beautiful channel called the **SOLENT SEA**, of the average breadth of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles: it is bounded on the south by the British Channel, and is reckoned twenty leagues distant from Cherbourg, the nearest part of the French Coast.

The form of the Island is an irregular lozenge, measuring 23 miles from east to west, and 13 miles

from north to south. Its circumference is about sixty miles, and the superficial contents upwards of 100,000 acres.

The island is almost encompassed by formidable rocks and shelves, of which the most noted are the Needles and Shingles, at the western point; Rock-en-end Race at the south, and Beinbridge Ledge at the eastern extremity. No part of the British coast is more dangerous to vessels ungoverned and driving in a storm; and scarcely a winter passes without the melancholy catastrophe of shipwreck, especially along the southern shore, off Blackgang Chine, Atherfield, Brooke, or Compton.

In those places where the shore is low and accessible, as at Yarmouth, Cowes, and Sandown, military fortifications have been established since the time of Henry VIII: these, from the proximity of the grand naval stations of Spithead and St. Helen's, have been considered of no practical utility, and like Carisbrooke castle, mere sinecures; the government however would appear to entertain a different opinion, from the fact of the year 1853 dating the erection of an extensive fort at Carey's-sconce, the site of an ancient battery, westward of Yarmouth. And it is a question whether the others may not receive some very considerable alterations.

Geological and Agricultural Remarks.

“The island affords many rare and quite singular geological phenomena; and is, from its smallness and the nature of its coasts, peculiarly adapted for the investigation of its structure.” The following concise description of the strata, on the authority

of W.D.SAULL, Esq., F.G.S., F.S.A. &c., will sufficiently indicate to the geological reader, the principal fields for his research.

DILUVIUM & ALLUVIUM. Spread on the top and the vallies over all the lower parts of the Island : consisting of rolled pebbles, sands, loam and the vegetable soil.

UPPER FRESHWATER & LAND. Binstead, Quarr &c.—Teeth and bones of the Anoplotherium, Paleotherium &c., Carapace of Turtle.—Many Freshwater shells.

UPPER MARINE. Headon Hill, &c.—Sand and many small shells.

LOWER FRESHWATER. Headon Hill, Cowes, and neighbourhood.

LOWER MARINE,—Sands &c. full of shells. Headon Hill, Totland Bay, Cowes, &c.

LONDON CLAY. Well developed in Alum Bay, & northward.

PLASTIC CLAYS and Sands. Alum Bay (much variegated), Whitecliff Bay, &c.

UPPER and MIDDLE CHALK,—comprising the highest hills throughout the island.

CHALK MARL and Lower CHALK,—the basement or bottom of chalk in the island.

MALM ROCK, or UPPER GREENSAND. Undercliff, landslips.

GAULT. Seen in a few places along the Undercliff

LOWER GREENSAND. Sandown Bay; Shanklin; on the S.W. coast ; the basis of Arreton down, and that part of the island.—The most abundant in Fossils.

THE WEALDON, the same as in Sussex. Near Sandown, but more extensive on the other side of the island at Brook.—Containing the bones of the Iguanodon, &c., with large masses of fossil wood.

HASTINGS SANDS, which appear to be the basis of the island generally, for I have not been able to discover any trace of the Oolitic beds.

“The most extraordinary circumstance in the geological structure of the Isle of Wight, is a series of strata, vertical or highly inclined, which runs across the middle of it from east to west, the parts on either side being composed of horizontal strata.

"This series, beginning at the north side, consists of the very thick stratum of clay and sand observable at Alum Bay, the flinty chalk, the chalk without flints, the chalk-marle, the green sandstone with limestone and chert, the dark grey marle, and the ferruginous sand. All these are very distinctly observable at the promontory of the Culver, at the east end of the island; and again at Alum Bay, the Needles, and Compton Bay, at the west end; the position of the strata being nearly the same in all these places.

"This series of nearly vertical strata, though less evident in the interior of the island, may easily be recognised by the attentive observer in various parts. At Yaverland and Brading Downs the chalk and green sandstone may be advantageously examined. At Arreton the former stratum only is visible. At St. George's Down, Mountjoy, and Carisbrooke, the highly inclined chalk is distinctly perceived, and the vertical clay may also be noticed at one place. From this to the Needles, a series of chalk-pits in the sides of the hills exhibits in a satisfactory manner the same structure, accompanied with similar phenomena."——Sir H. ENGLEFIELD.

The finest white sand in the kingdom is obtained from the sea-cliffs of Alum Bay, and is carried in great quantities to the glass and porcelain manufactories of London, Bristol, and Worcester.

Good Stone of various qualities is also found in most parts of the island, and with that produced from the quarries of Binstead, the body of Winchester Cathedral was built. All the houses along the Undercliff are constructed with a beautiful kind of freestone procured on the spot.

A range of chalk hills stretches from east to west the whole extent of the island, dividing it into two

nearly distinct regions, the soil and strata of which are essentially different,—a stiff clay predominating on the north side, which is extensively covered with wood: while the south side is principally of a light sandy soil or mellow loam, and being exceedingly fertile, the whole tract is almost exclusively employed in tillage. The island affords a great diversity of soil, yet is upon the whole well calculated for farming, which indeed may be inferred from its proverbial fertility. Pasture and meadow land is generally very rich. Farms are mostly of moderate size, managed by an intelligent class of men, who as far as practicable, keep pace with the advancements of agriculture.

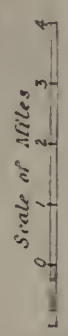
The extensive downs of the island afford excellent pasture for sheep, whose wool is of a staple not inferior to that produced on the South Downs. Oxen are reared in number nearly sufficient for the use of the inhabitants: and a great quantity of lambs are annually sent to the London markets.

The demands of the dock-yards both here and at Portsmouth, have greatly thinned the timber of the island, which is principally oak and elm, and found to grow most luxuriantly in the wooded tract from East Cowes to St. Helen's.

In the time of King Charles II, woods were so extensive in the island, that it is recorded, a squirrel might have run on the tops of the trees from Gurnard to Carisbrooke, and in many other parts for leagues together.



GEOLOGICAL MAP
 OF THE
ISLE OF WIGHT
 BY
 A. BRANNON





Zoological Particulars.

FISH of every kind common to the southern coast of England is caught off the island, but not in that abundance which might be expected, except crabs and lobsters, which are uncommonly large and fine. Mackarel are some seasons extremely plentiful, small but peculiarly sweet. Numbers of porpoises are seen rolling along in the Solent Sea and Southampton Water; sharks are frequently observed off the back of the island: and sometimes even the grampus pursuing its prey. In 1814, a large whale was taken on the Shingles, west of the Needle Rocks, having been left aground by the ebbing tide; and another near the same spot in 1841, whose prodigious and highly interesting skeleton, upwards of eighty feet in length! is now carefully preserved at Blackgang.

GAME is tolerably abundant, owing "to the care of Sir E. Horsey, governor in 1582, who is reported to have given a lamb for every living hare brought to him from the neighbouring counties." It is very remarkable there are no polecats nor badgers; otters are occasionally seen; foxes were introduced only a few years since, for the pleasures of the chace, and notwithstanding their numerous enemies, have so increased as to give full employment to an excellent subscription pack of hounds.

Astonishing numbers of sea-fowl resort during the summer to the cliffs of Freshwater and Bembridge, in the latter even the eagle has built its eyry.

Commerce and Population.

The only manufacture of consequence carried on in the island is at the lace-factory near Newport, which gives employment to several hundred persons. Corn is the staple article of trade. A great quantity of salt is made, part of which is exported. The imports are deals, iron, coals &c. There are 39 corn-mills (35 water), and several large breweries.

The constant intercourse which the inhabitants have with persons from all parts of the kingdom, has entirely erased any insular peculiarity which might have formerly existed. But the following extract from the Memoirs of Sir John Oglander, which were written about the year 1700, exhibits a most amusing picture of the simplicity of manners which characterised the islanders of the 16th century. "I have heard," says Sir John, "and partly knowe it to be true, that not only heretofore there was no lawyer nor attorney in owre island, but in Sir George Carey's time (1588) an attorney coming in to settle in the island, was by his command, with a pound of candles hanging lighted, with bells about his legs, hunted owte of the island; insomuch that owre ancestors lived here so quietly and securely being neither troubled to London nor Winchester, so when they went to London (thinking it an East India voyage), they always made their wills, supposing no trouble like to travaile."

The river Medina, whose source is in the south, is navigable from Newport to Cowes, and divides

the island into two hundreds of nearly equal extent, respectively called the East and West Medene: the first comprising 14, the latter 16 parishes.

The stationary population of the island is rapidly increasing ;—the number of inhabitants in the year

1802 being 22,602 1831.....35,431

1811.....25,338 1841.....42,547

1821.....31,611 1851.....49,879

or considerably more than doubled in fifty years.

Population of the Isle of Wight.

1851.

EAST MEDENE.

Parishes	Houses	Inhab.	Parishes	Houses	Inhab.
Arreton	384	1902	St. Helen's . .	454	1948
Binstead	68	317	St. Lawrence .	25	111
Bonchurch . . .	74	523	Shanklin	78	355
Brading	661	3046	Whippingham	644	3101
Godshill	237	1296	Whitwell . . .	126	637
Newchurch .	2146	11549	Wootton	11	58
Niton	146	684	Yaverland . . .	14	78

WEST MEDENE.

Brixton	141	695	Mottistone . . .	32	157
Brooke	32	143	Newport with	} 878	4259
Calbourne . . .	158	781	St. Nicholas		
Carisbrooke .	1191	7630	Northwood . .	1098	5612
Chale	124	629	Shalfleet . . .	260	1245
Freshwater . .	278	1393	Shorwell . . .	138	678
Gatcombe . . .	43	260	Thorley	28	154
Kingston	10	65	Yarmouth . . .	119	573
Ryde and Ventnor in Newchurch. Cowes, Northwood			TOTAL	9598	49879

VECTA or VECTIS was the name given to the island by the Romans ; but the modern appellation

is derived from **WECT**, **WITH**, or **WICT**, as it is found variously written in **Doomsday Book**.

The island is imagined by many to have once formed part of the main land ; and to have been in the time of the Romans, a peninsula joined by an isthmus passable at low water, This supposed isthmus was from Gurnet (a mile west of Cowes,) to a place on the opposite shore called Leap, where the channel is not more than about three miles across.



THE HISTORY

Of the island presents nothing very remarkable other than is to be found in the general annals of the kingdom ; and the relation of its peculiar sufferings by predatory descents and invasions, forms only a broken and comparatively uninteresting narrative.

It was first invaded by the Romans, A.D. 43 : but the conquerors seem to have been under no apprehension of the inhabitants, as not the least trace of their usual fortifications has been discovered.

In the years 495 and 661, it was attacked by the Saxons, who with their usual ferocity, murdered most of the natives, or laid waste the country, till it was subjected by Ceadwalla, who formed the sanguinary resolution of exterminating the pagan inhabitants, unless they immediately consented to embrace Christianity !

In the ninth century the island was frequently surprised by Danish pirates, either for the sake of plunder, or to make it a place of retreat. On one occasion, however, as they were sailing off with a large booty, they were overtaken by king Alfred, and only one of many vessels escaped his vengeance.

1066—1346.] For nearly three centuries it seems to have enjoyed a state of tranquillity, till its repose was disturbed by the French, who effected a landing at St. Helens, but were soon repulsed. About this time a variety of excellent regulations were made by the inhabitants for their better security : the landholders were by their tenures bound to defend the castle of Carisbrooke for 40 days at their own charges : the county of Devon sent for its defence 76 men-at-arms, and the city of London 300 slingers and bowmen.

Although invasions were frequently menaced, the place continued unmolested till the year 1377, when it was again invaded by the French ; there were then no forts to obstruct their landing, and Carisbrooke Castle standing in the centre of the island could only serve for a retreat. This want of domestic security so discouraged the natives, that many families withdrew, when an order was issued to the wardens to seize the lands of all such as refused to return.

1403.] The preparations of the French having given timely notice of their hostile intentions, the militia of the island which then consisted of 900 men, was reinforced from Southampton and London. On the landing of the enemy, the people fled for refuge to Carisbrooke Castle, which was defended by Sir Hugh Tyrrel, who slew a great number of the assailants. During the siege, a party of the French fell into an ambuscade and were cut to pieces : the place is still called Deadman's lane, and a tumulus where the slain were buried, was exultingly called *Noddies' Hill*, now covered by Nodehill, the southern avenue to Newport. The French, unable to subdue the castle, at length withdrew ; but before they re-embarked, obliged the inhabitants to redeem their houses from being burned, by a contribution of 1000 marks, and also bound them by oath not to resist, should they revisit the island within a year.

1420.] About this time the place was twice attacked by the French ; on the first occasion they were soon repulsed,—

and on the second, making a threatening demand of a subsidy, were treated with derision by the islanders.

While the rest of the kingdom was alternately ravaged by the partisans of the houses of York and Lancaster, the remote situation of the island procured it an exemption from the calamities of civil war : nor was its tranquillity disturbed by the French, till the year 1545, when above 2000 of them made a descent : but being disappointed in their object of keeping possession of the island, they proceeded to pillage and burn the villages—until they were attacked by the natives, who soon drove them back to their ships with considerable loss.

To secure the coast from the like insults, several forts were constructed in different places by order of king Henry VIII; these, though at present of little use, were at that time deemed of great importance. But the island was afterwards more effectually guarded by the naval strength of England, which was augmented by queen Elizabeth to a degree before unknown,—and thenceforth was secured from the calamities of foreign invasion. To provide a train of artillery, every parish had to furnish a small piece of ordnance ; we regret to state that the one remaining at Carisbrooke, has been recently sold for its value as old brass !

At the time when the peace of the nation was destroyed by the division between king Charles I and the parliament, its situation happily preserved it from the scenes of hostility between the troops ; but so important a contest could not but interest all men in the event. At first, the inhabitants manifested a zeal in the king's favour, but the fickle populace changing, Carisbrooke Castle and the other forts were seized by the opposite party ; and on the arrival of the Earl of Pembroke, the gentlemen and principal farmers assembled at Cowes, and tendered him their best services. The inhabitants having thus taken a decisive step in closing with the prevailing power, remained undisturbed spectators of the ensuing commotions, till the king injudiciously sought here an asylum.

Nov. 12, 1647.] On the first arrival of the king in the island, the governor, Colonel Hammond, lodged him in Carisbrooke Castle, not as a prisoner, but as a guest : there appeared not the least restraint on his actions ; he rode when and where he pleased ; his servants were permitted to repair to him ; and all who desired it were admitted to his presence without distinction. His liberty however was soon abridged : his confidential servants removed ; and himself confined to the walls of the castle. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to liberate him by a few of his friends,—which only served as a pretext to increase the rigors of his confinement. But during the time of the Treaty of Newport, he was so far released as to be a prisoner at large on his parole, till the army suddenly put an end to the negociation, by seizing and imprisoning him in Hurst Castle, the final catastrophe of which affair is well known.

During the civil war, the island enjoyed a much happier state than any other part of the kingdom, which invited many families to retire hither : a circumstance that for the time rose the farm-rents in the proportion of 20 per cent. Subsequently the local history presents nothing interesting.

The absolute lordship of the Isle of Wight was given by William the Conqueror to one William Fitz-Osborne, as a reward for his services at the battle of Hastings ; but in consequence of the defection of his descendant, it was resumed by the Crown. Henry I. granted it to the Earl of Devon, in whose family it long continued, till the alienation of it was craftily obtained by Edward I. for a trifling sum. The last grant was to Edward de Woodville in 1485, whose popularity was sufficient to enable him to select 440 of the inhabitants to join him in his unfortunate expedition to Brittany. The disastrous results of the battle of St. Aubin's, from which one boy alone escaped, threw almost every family in the island into mourning. From which time there have been successively appointed by the Crown,—wardens, captains—and governors of the island.

It is an amusing circumstance in the history of this little spot, that it had once the high-sounding honor of having a *King of its own*!—for the Duke of Warwick was so crowned by the hands of Henry VI. in the year 1444,—but it would seem that the glory of the name was all which his *Vectis* Majesty derived from his accession.

EMINENT NATIVES.

We cannot, perhaps, close this miscellaneous chapter better than by giving a list of the most celebrated natives of the Isle of Wight.

Sir JOHN CHEEKE, Knt., one of the most learned and ingenious, as well as virtuous, men of his time : he was tutor to prince Edward VI., and descended from a respectable family at Mottistone.

Rev. HENRY COLE, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's : born at Godshill. Flourished about the middle of the 16th century, and shone in divinity and literature.

THOMAS JAMES, D.D., a learned divine and antiquary : he was esteemed, from his extensive erudition, a living library. Born at Newport, died anno 1629.

ROBERT HOOK, M.D., celebrated for his extraordinary inventive powers in almost every branch of art and science ; he was the inventor of the original pendulum-spring of a watch. Born at Freshwater : flourished in the 17th century.

Admiral HOBSON, rose by his skill and courage from the obscurity of a tailor's parish-apprentice, to be one of the first naval commanders in the reign of Queen Anne. The little village of Bonchurch claims the honor of his birth-place.



Abramson, Eng.

THE SHORE AT SHANKLIN
Isle of Wight



CHAPTER II.

THE MOST INTERESTING PARTS OF THE ISLAND

IN RESPECT OF

THE SCENERY.

[For the sake merely of an easy reference to the subjects under this head by Tourists from any part of the island, we shall commence our description at the eastern quarter, and proceed round by the southern coast to the western extremity, thus embracing all the more emphatically ROMANTIC and SUBLIME objects. But with respect to the northern side, little can be said more than is stated under Cowes and Ryde—whose scenery affords the liveliest interest, in combination with the ever-varying pictures of marine life.

SECTION I.

BEMBRIDGE CLIFFS.

These far-seen and celebrated precipices rank high in the proud characteristic scenery of our coast—the *white cliffs of Albion*. Rising at once from the sea with an almost perpendicular face to a sublime elevation, and the chalk being of the most dazzling whiteness, except where occasionally relieved by mantling samphire and the mellowing hand of time in the more permanent slopes, they present a truly majestic aspect in either a tranquil or a tempestuous state of the weather; but especially if viewed at a little distance off on a calm day, when

the sun's rays fall in an oblique direction :—for then no stranger to this impressive species of scenery could possibly imagine the bold effects of light and shade, the beautiful, the romantic, and even “elegant” configuration which marks more or less every salient crag and towering precipice, or the brilliant contrasts in the coloring of the sea and cliff combined.

We would particularly point out one spot that is easily accessible to pedestrians—WHITECLIFF BAY (the nearest to the ferry at Bembridge): a beautiful scene in our opinion; and if visited at low tide, so much the more pleasant. There is also a small cavern called Hermit's Hole in the face of the cliffs (more round the point), about 30 feet from the top, the descent to which, though perhaps rather dangerous, is tolerably easy.

This is nearly the easternmost part of the island, as Freshwater is the most western,—both places being almost identical in their geological character, for in fact they are but the termini of the range of chalk downs that stretch the length of the island and it is remarkable that at Bembridge the chalk is supported on either side by earthy cliffs of different colors, similar to those at Freshwater, though not of so bright and varied hues.—By mariners these cliffs are better known as “THE CULVERS,” an old designation, derived from their having been the resort of vast numbers of pigeons :—in the time

of queen Elizabeth they were also famous for a particular breed of hawks: and are still frequented in the summer-season by a great variety of sea-fowl. Even the eagle has been known to make its eyry in the more inaccessible crags.

It is to be regretted, that its situation on the south side of the peninsula of Bembridge, and at nearly two miles distance from the town and ferry, render it often too inconvenient for parties of limited time to visit this interesting quarter; but to those staying a week or two at Ryde, it affords a most delightful aquatic trip—landing in some of the charming sheltered coves,—and if sketchers, fond of rocky scenery, they will find many attractive subjects for a bold and ready pencil.

To the next object of scenic importance is about four miles (passing Yaverland and Sandown, noticed hereafter). But this distance is far from being uninteresting, for we shall have constantly a gratifying prospect of Sandown Bay, —making a noble sweep of several miles, bounded on the north by the white cliffs of Bembridge, and towards the south by the frowning precipices of Shanklin and Dunnose.

SECT. II.

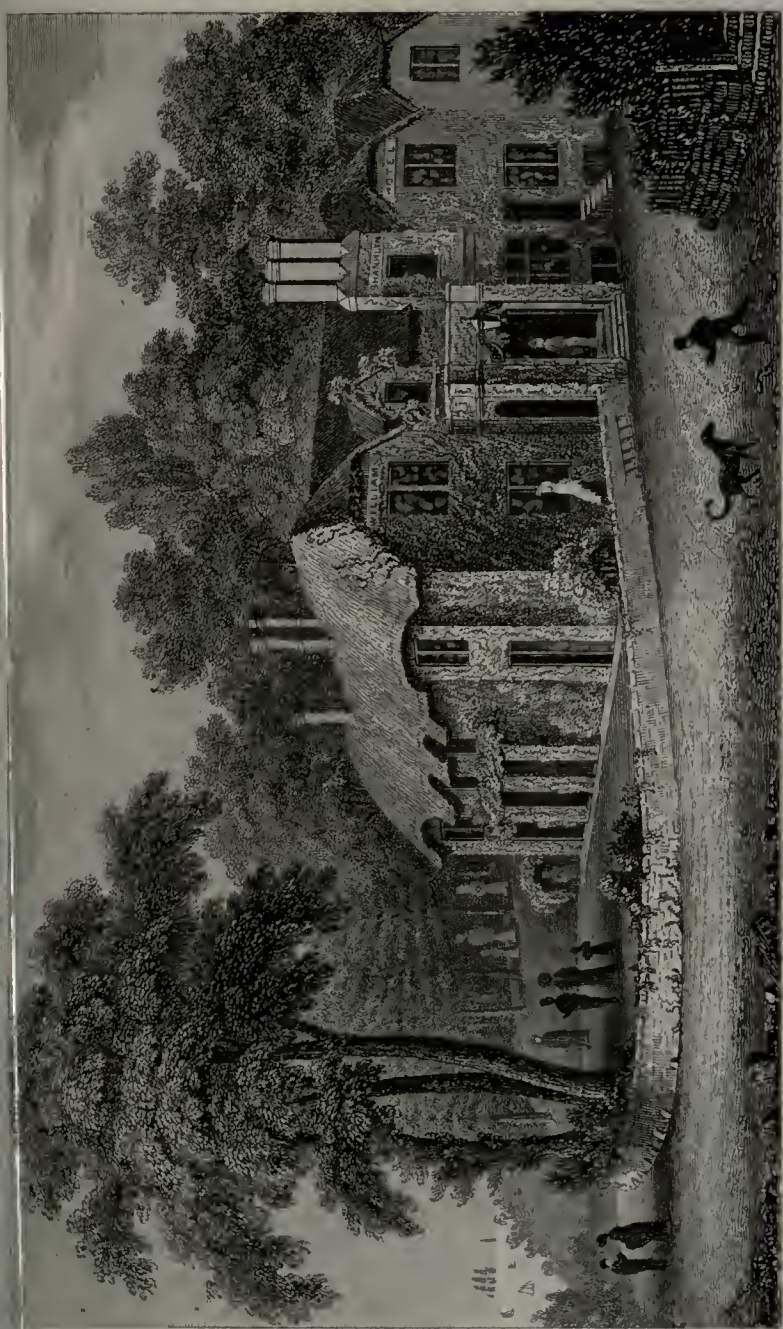
SHANKLIN CHINE,

One of the most attractive scenes in the island, being of considerable extent, and universally admired for its romantic character.

This beautiful chasm owes its origin to a small stream of water whose source is in the higher part of the valley, a little above the church. After me-

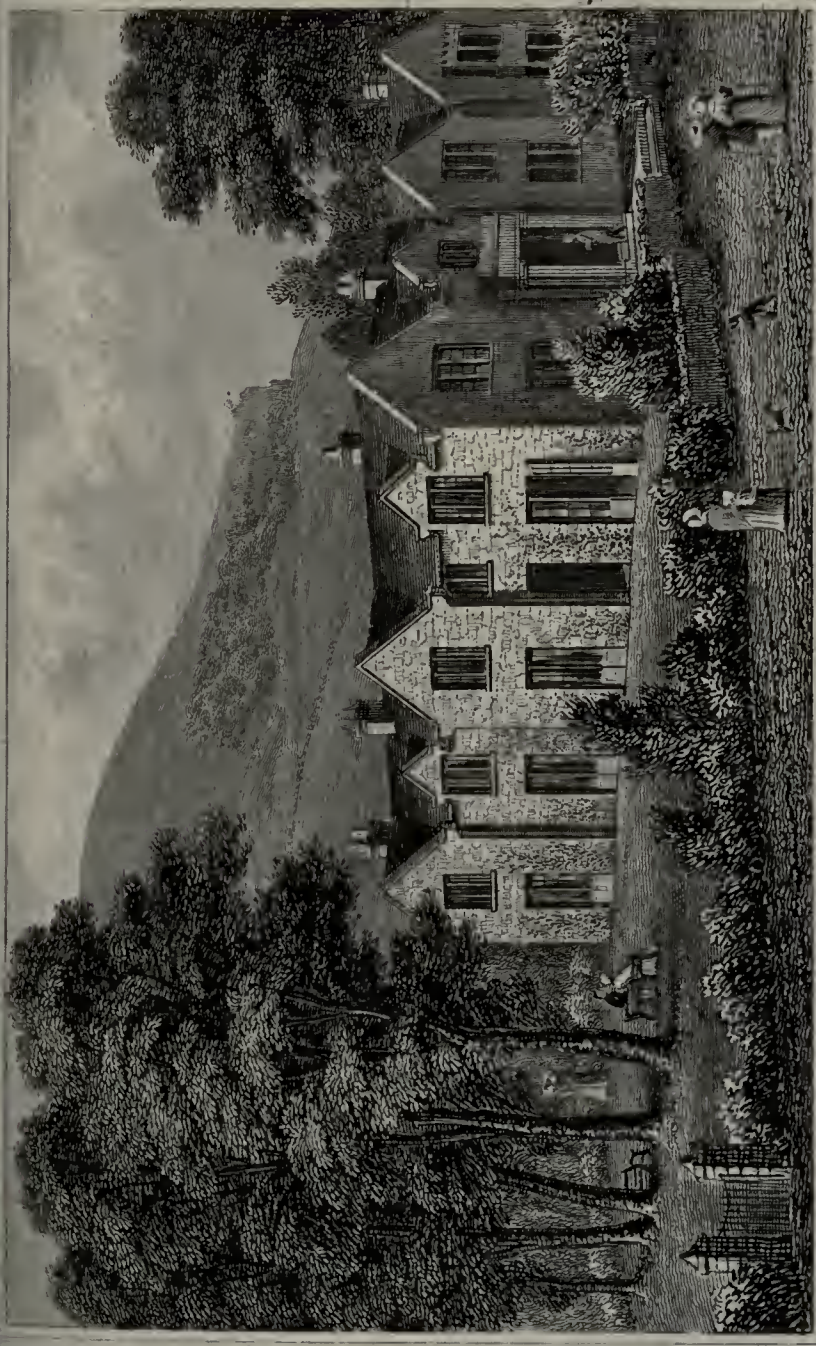
andering for nearly a mile, under the shade of luxuriant oaks, ashes, and elms, in some parts in a deep channel almost hidden by overhanging trees and underwood, it at length arrives at the **HEAD OF THE CHINE**, where it precipitates itself over a ledge of the sand-cliff in a beautiful cascade of above 30 feet. As a proof of the wasting effects of this streamlet, and consequent gradual enlargement of the chasm in the course of centuries, it is only necessary to state the fact of the fall having been removed nearly ten yards higher up in the space of as many years,—previous to the proprietor having resorted to the aid of masonry to resist its further progress. From the fall, the chine takes a bold serpentine course for about a quarter of a mile, gradually increasing till it reaches the seashore, where it is nearly 200 feet high, and about 100 yards wide at the top, more or less abruptly contracting to the bed of the stream.

The sides of this romantic chasm present a striking contrast: the one being an almost perpendicular cliff of mouldering sand-rock, with comparatively little vegetation to relieve its sombre hue;—while the other is more shelving, broken, and of a glowing tint; richly clothed with hanging trees or wild brushwood; and enlivened by the presence of two comfortable rustic cottages, one which lets well during the summer for lodgings,



W. HOLLIER,
WILLIAMS' SEASIDE HOTEL,





A Brannon.

DAISIE'S FAMILY HOTEL & BOARDING HOUSE,

Eng. Newport



and the other a public-house, both resting on narrow terraces a little above each other: while a third, of a more imposing figure, stands directly on the brink of the precipice, and has, from the boldness of its site, an uncommonly picturesque effect. On the beach are several tasty lodging-houses, one would fancy in a most jeopardous situation,—liable to be washed away by the swelling tides, or buried in by the foundering cliff.

The usual descent to the chine is by a rude winding path in the sea-cliffs, near the public-house. After a short saunter under the majestic face of the towering precipices, we should return to explore the scene: and having reached the water-fall, we can there take our leave, through a wicket that opens to the road:—or retrace our devious path, for the pleasure of seeing the place in different points of view.

The term *Chine* is a provincialism (supposed to be derived from the common expression for a cleft in the ridge of an animal's back), designating those chasms and ravines so frequent in the earthy cliffs along our coast. They owe their origin, it is considered, to small streams of water, which in the course of ages have gradually deepened the beds of their channels, and thence occasioned great masses of earth to founder in, especially during severe winters.

THE VILLAGE OF SHANKLIN

Is generally considered extremely pretty, and the locality delightfully rural, independently of its

grand attractive feature, the chine. It has a very rich soil, and a bold undulating surface, adorned with scattered groups of magnificent trees, and a profusion of flowering shrubs: it is well sheltered too by high downs enriched by cultivation and hanging groves, although standing nearly 300 feet above the sea, and hence it commands a delightful land and marine prospect.

From its increasing popularity, there has been a considerable accession to the number of lodgings-houses, especially in the upper part of the village, where they are mostly large and commodious; those however in the lower part have in general less pretensions, except in the charms of *shelter*,—and it has been proved that for a mild and equal climate, it ranks with the most favored spots of the Under-cliff itself.

The beach too is about the finest on the coast, being a firm dark-colored sand, of several miles extent, interspersed with rocks, and overhung by sublime precipices of almost every hue.

There are two excellent Hotels, with places of minor accommodation, and a few pleasing genteel private residences. The PARSONAGE is remarkable for the luxuriant growth of myrtles which envelop its walls, and are found to stand the severest winter without protection.

The church is an uninteresting object in itself, but forms an agreeable feature in the general landscape: is passed on our road to Bonchurch.

SECTION III.

From Shanklin to the Undercliff.

DIRECTING our course now to the Undercliff, we pass the church, and wind gradually up the steep side of the down, between a copse and several beautiful groups of ancient oak and ash. Having reached the lofty summit, we should pause, for the purpose of contemplating the magnificent and splendid prospect which opens around.

Or, if the tourist be a tolerable pedestrian, he will find it more gratifying to proceed by Luccombe through East End to Bonchurch, on the foot-path near the verge of the precipice, directly overlooking the sea: the distance is about two miles.

“Lord of my time, my devious path I bend
Through fringy woodland or smooth-shaven lawn;
Or pensile grove, or airy cliff ascend,
And hail the scene by Nature’s pencil drawn.”

LUCCOMBE CHINE

Ranks among the prominent beauties of the island; but being of a character similar to Shanklin, and greatly inferior in extent and beauty, it is not of course so frequently visited. Still, however, if the

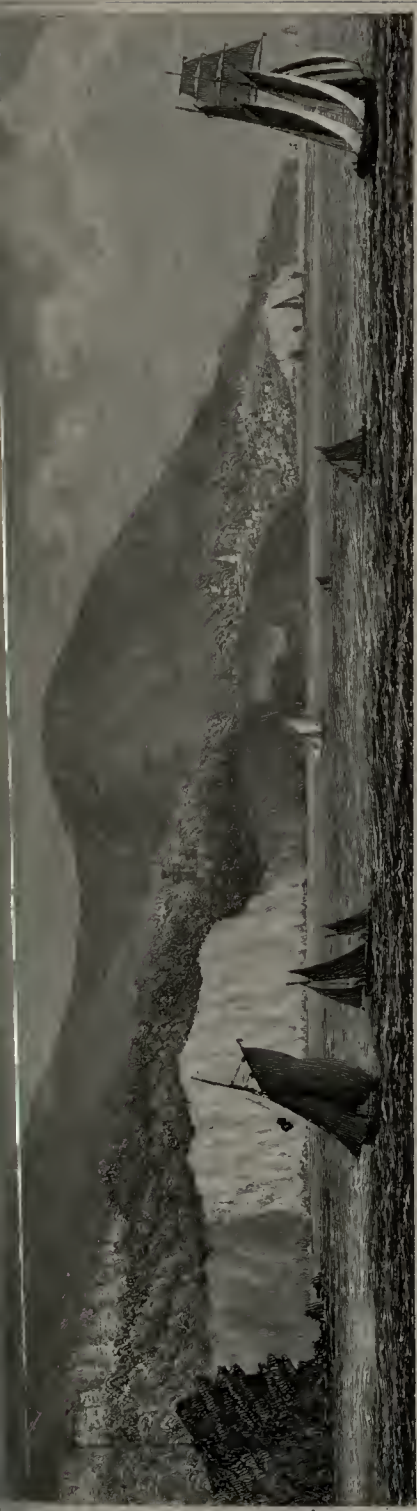
picturesque tourist have time to spare, it will repay him well for the trouble of a descent to the shore. A gentleman's Cottage, appropriately built in the old-English style, and thatched, stands at the head of the Chine, and contributes much to the pleasing effect of the scene.

CAUTION TO VISITORS.

It is no uncommon circumstance for strangers to be hurried by some of the drivers through the most delightful passages of scenery: and hence form an opinion much below the real merits of the place. This is often the case in passing....

EAST END;

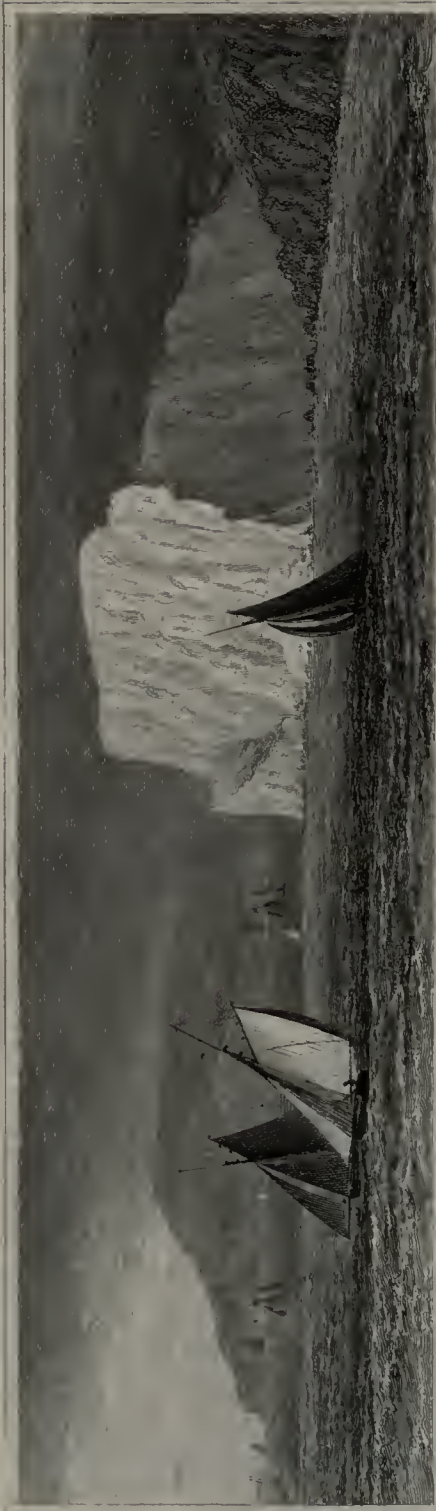
Which lies a little below, and yet is quite concealed from, the public highway. Here the landscape is more romantically *wild* than in any other part of the Undercliff (of which in fact it is the beginning): and, what is of no little consequence to the inquiring traveller, affords an excellent opportunity for examining the apparent cause of the very singular character which marks the whole of this interesting tract. It may be observed here by the way, that Nature having spontaneously thrown a soft mantle of vegetation over the greater part of the last landslip (1818), only a faint idea can now be formed of the terrific picture of desolation which the place presented for some time after the occurrence.



St Lawrence

PLATE V.

Ventnor



Dunnose

PLATE VI.

The Culvers



The visitor is therefore particularly recommended to quit his vehicle at *Luccombe*, and follow the foot-path which winds through East End, till he reaches Bonchurch (altogether about a mile,) where his carriage will be ready to receive him.—But should the party find it inconvenient to adopt this course, still it would be very gratifying to alight at the proper place, and cautiously approaching the margin of the precipice, look down on the wild scene below.

SECT. IV.

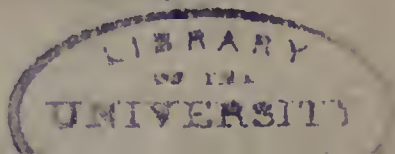
THE UNDERCLIFF,

From Bonchurch to Puckaster.

THIS is considered by many visitors as the most interesting part of the island, and presents a great diversity of wild and beautiful scenery: in fact, every material of picturesque composition in the happiest arrangement.

The Undercliff reaches from East End to Blackgang Chine, an extent of above seven miles; but, as the late Rev. P. Wyndham affirms, “they are such miles as are *not to be paralleled for their singularity*, perhaps in the whole world.”

The PECULIAR and highly romantic character of this delightful country is no doubt originally owing to a succession of formidable landslips that must have taken place in the course of many ages, pro-



ducing, at the time of their occurrence, nearly the same destructive results as the shocks of a tremendous earthquake ; but by the gradual dispersion of different shrubs and mantling vegetation, all the most dreary and terrific impressions are soon obliterated, or converted into positive beauties.

The cause of these landslips is this : the substratum for the greater part of the Undercliff is a bluish kind of marle, *of a very loose and absorbent texture*, which, when saturated by heavy rains and land-soaks, becomes the consistence of mud ; at the same time the sea is gradually undermining and washing away this unstable material, as it forms the foot of the cliffs on the beach ; till at length there is not a sufficient resistance to the immense pressure of the superincumbent strata of rock and chalk,—which therefore, in some awful moment, sooner or later, will force out the yielding foundation, and (deprived of support,) must then of necessity subside, and be rent and dashed about in the most awful manner.

In some instances, as the last one which took place at East End in the year 1818, when nearly twenty acres of land were ruined, immense masses of the superior cliff slid forward with the sinking foundation for a considerable distance, and yet retained their *perpendicular position* ; while other parts, covered with trees and underwood, were com-

pletely overturned and laid waste in a few hours.

The above explanation, it is presumed, will be sufficient to enable the visitor to account for the singularly bold manner in which many large detached masses of rock are seen starting from the soil, and the very abrupt irregularities of the ground.

The most considerable landslip within the last century, was near Niton in the year 1799, when a space of nearly one hundred acres was actually seen in a sort of undulating motion descending towards the shore,—the ground rifting into frightful chasms, and completely changing its form. A cottage was thrown down, but fortunately no lives were lost.

Besides this great and alarming source of picturesque beauty, there is another much less formidable—we mean the frequent *founders* of large portions of the upper range of cliffs. These are rarely attended with any very serious consequences, other than the damage done perhaps to a few shrubs or a growing crop.

The *breadth* of the Undercliff upon an average is about three-quarters of a mile. On the land-side, a steep, irregular bank, surmounted by a wall-like precipice of rock, at an elevation of about 600 feet above the sea, forms the northern boundary, while the tides of the ocean wash its shores on the south. The nominal derivation is obvious,

i.e. *Under-the-cliff*.—With regard to the general *stability* of the ground, there is every reason to presume that the greatest part has been in a state of repose for many centuries ; certainly so at Bonchurch, by the age of the old parish-church, which is of Saxon or early Norman construction.

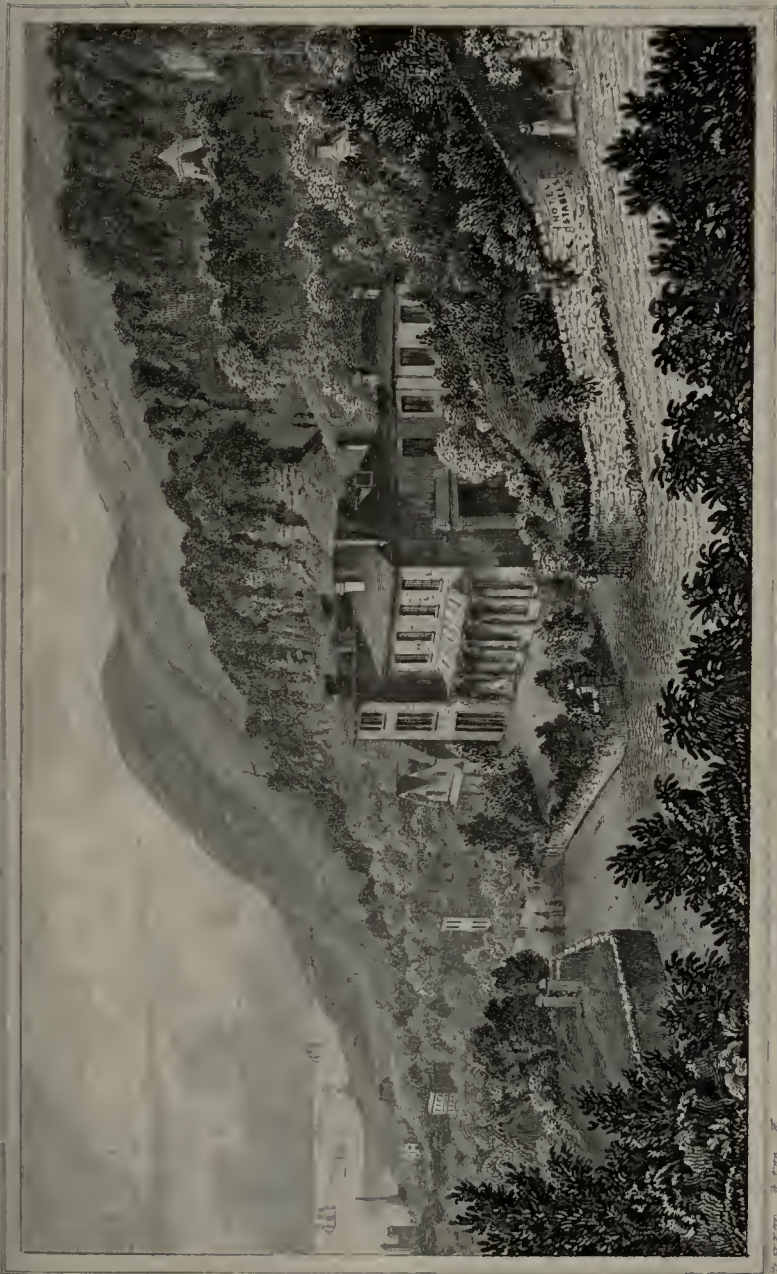
Having given a general description of the *formation* of the Undercliff, we shall now conduct the reader regularly through it, taking care to call his attention to every remarkable passage. And first of

BONCHURCH,

“ Where Nature has her charms combined,—
With grove, and stream, and valley joined ;
Where glen, and rock, and mountain high,
Are blent in strangest harmony.”

This lovely spot was once fairy-land itself,—a concentration in fact of all the *wild* and romantic features of this singular district—previously to the year 1840, when the land was advertised to be let off on building leases.

The first view of Bonchurch, coming from Shanklin by the carriage-road, possesses an uncommon degree of picturesque and *cheerful* beauty ; for there are not too many houses seen at once,—that venerable aspect of the time-worn cliffs has been generally spared the desecration too often inflicted by *speculating* builders,—and the more prominent



BONCHURCH FAMILY HOTEL,

By J. P. K. & Co. London



craggy knolls and ivied rocks have been preserved with an almost sacred regard, at least as far as was possible where domestic convenience must be consulted. Such is the foreground of the picture : and the perspective is no less pleasing, for it has always been esteemed as decidedly the best view of the Undercliff that could be had.

The ancient parish-church is a very pleasing object (though without any pretensions to architectural ornament,) prettily situated near the margin of the sea-cliff, and beautifully shrouded in magnificent trees. A considerable number of newly-erected villas are dispersed about, but in a great measure secluded by lofty rocky mounds, dense shrubberies or luxuriant groves : and thus sheltered, it is not surprising, the degree of vigour with which even tender exotics thrive in the open air. Some were built on speculation for lodging-houses, but we believe the greater part are private residences—the delightful locality and salubrity of climate, rendering it a most desirable family-retreat, especially during the winter season. There is a comfortable Hotel, situated nearly at the foot of the upper cliff : and not far from it a Church has recently been completed, similar in design to the original one.

The principal villa is called EAST-DENE, enjoying a most exquisite position near the church, and remarkable for the *interior* of the house being

finished and furnished in the true antique style of the Elizabethan period, at a great expense.

☞ The letting-off this charming spot for the purpose of a building-speculation, was a circumstance deeply regretted by the admirers of picturesque scenery, when it was first proposed. In ordinary situations, an accession of handsome houses may often prove a great advantage,—a relief to dullness and monotony : but not so in a place like Bonchurch, where native *wildness* reigned to a degree that was justly the pride of the island, and called forth the warmest admiration from visitors of every taste. In the result however we have been agreeably disappointed, for there is still a very considerable share of romantic beauty ; and where rugged wildness has been banished, some pretty cottage-villa peeps from its girdling shrubbery of ever-greens,—imparting an enlivening character to the place, without being formal or ostentatious.

Before taking our leave of this charming scenery, we would direct particular attention to one spot, known by the familiar appellation of THE POND : a small piece of transparent water, margined on the road-side by some noble elms, whose unchecked spreading arms beautifully overhang the reflecting surface : while on the other side rises a steep bank clothed with the richest variety of trees : and above is seen the mountain brow of St. Boniface Down. Near the grove is the entrance to a delightfully sequestered spot—several private villas enclosed in a sort of amphitheatre formed by a continuous ridge of rock (on the south side of the highway,) covered with a sufficient depth of mould to support the most thriving plantations of ornamental shrubs.

Close to the Pond is likewise an ascent to the top of the village, by a long series of stone steps (too rough and fatiguing perhaps for invalids,) which will bring the party near to the *Pulpit Rock*, a remarkable crag in the face of the highest cliff, generally adorned with a rude cross. There is another picturesque rock on the road-side not far from the church, called *Hadfield's Look-out*, distinguished by a flag-staff, and to which the public formerly had access.

As we emerge from the umbrageous groves of Bonchurch, by the old road, we are suddenly presented with a pleasing view of ST. BONIFACE COTTAGE—a roomy house, and in a good style for its situation ; deriving its name from the beautiful down at the foot of which it stands—the same that screens Ventnor on the north, and rises with an uncommonly steep ascent, nearly 600 feet above the sea.

VENTNOR.

THIS fast-improving town was in the year 1830 little more than a quiet hamlet of about half-a-dozen poor cottages, a grist-mill, one small inn, and a tolerable hotel. Its rapid advance in building and population is owing to the very general opinion held by the Faculty in favor of the Undercliff, as being the most desirable spot in Great Britain for the winter residence of invalids, especially those whose complaints require a mild and dry climate. Several streets have already been completed, and others are in progress ; besides a great number of detached houses and villas.

Almost every house is furnished with accommodations for lodgers : there are several resident me-

dical practitioners: and handsome, well-stocked shops in nearly every line of business. The number of Hotels and Inns has also considerably increased of late (see List:) and there are established baths of several kinds most required by invalids, besides the common bathing-machines on the beach.

St. Catharine's Church is an exceedingly pretty object, and admirably relieves the eye from the confused appearance of the houses: it was built at the expense of a private gentleman in the neighbourhood; internally is very convenient, and was an accommodation much wanted by the rapid increase of the population. There are also two dissenting chapels—an Independent lately rebuilt and of handsome design, and a Wesleyan.

Several local improvements, of great advantage, such as paving, lighting with gas, constructing a promenade on the shore, &c., have already been effected; while others of a very desirable nature, among which are a better landing-place and break-water, are in contemplation, and will no doubt be carried out as soon as possible.

VENTNOR-COVE

Is well deserving of a visit: the coast is remarkably bold, and in some passages highly picturesque: presenting at particular seasons quite an animated scene



J. Brannen del. &c

ROYAL HOTEL, VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT,



—fisherman launching their boats or returning from sea ; and numerous visitors variously engaged—some in active exercise near the rippling waves ; and others reclining at their ease on the pleasant banks of sand and shingle that are thrown up by the tides.

The material of the shore is principally fine shingle, or small pebbles, among which are frequently found particles possessing a brilliancy that has gained for them the title of “Isle of Wight diamonds,” and though they may be but of comparatively inferior value in point of intrinsic quality,—still, the *interest* taken in searching for them is a source of the most agreeable employment, especially to those visitors whose health precludes exercise of a more active nature.

The general appearance of Ventnor is, as might be expected, at present greatly injured by the obtrusive glare of so many new houses being scattered about in every direction ; an unfavorable though unavoidable effect, which must gradually disappear with the promising growth of the ornamental shrubs so profusely planted, and when building shall be less extensively carried on, and the houses more connected in the principal streets.

Much of the finest scenery of the Isle of Wight is in the immediate neighbourhood of Ventnor ; for instance, at Steephill and St. Lawrence almost every unique feature of the Undercliff exists in undiminished beauty ; from one to two miles northward the groves of Appuldurcombe spread in luxu-

riant style, surrounded by landscapes exceedingly rich and varied : from the summits of the towering hills by which the town is so happily screened on the north, the prospects are of the most splendid description ; and the exquisite scenery of Bonchurch is so near and available, as to belong as it were to Ventnor itself.


In rather less than a mile we shall reach....

STEEPHILL,

Long and deservedly styled “the Queen of the Undercliff.” But since the year 1830, a great change has taken place in its aspect,—for much of that delightfully romantic negligence, and truly rural accompaniments, by which it was then so eminently distinguished—have yielded to polished decoration and imposing magnificence ; the comfortable thatched cottage for so many years the late Earl Dysart’s favorite retreat, was then succeeded by a most **SPLENDID CASTLE** : and several neighbouring rustic cots were removed (to the advantage of the occupants), in order to give an extent of ground corresponding with the dignity of the new mansion.

Though the place is now, notwithstanding the change, extremely interesting, and no doubt to many tastes more beautiful than before,—still, as far as the public are concerned, the alteration is

much to be regretted, for they are not admitted within the garden-grounds—which are very extensive, and maintained in the most exquisite taste.

 For a description of the Castle see section “Seats.”

ST. LAWRENCE

Succeeds Steephill, and here we have all the charms of the Undercliff, without any considerable drawback on the score of modern improvements, or any very important alterations in the general character of the scene.

The principal embellishment to the landscape is a VILLA belonging to Earl Yarborough, which was built many years since, and the grounds laid out with much classical taste by the late Sir Rd. Worsley : but this, like nearly all the other seats, now possesses comparatively little interest with the passing traveller, who is precluded the indulgence of a peep at either the house or the grounds ; indeed an attempt has been made to close the foot-path to the sea-cliffs. Contiguous is the more modern cottage of the late Hon. Capt. Pelham.

Nearly opposite the villa-entrance is THE WELL—a very neat piece of architecture, inclosing a crystal fountain, and beautifully canopied by various trees ;—makes a good subject for an easy sketch.

But the principal object of attention with stran-

gers is the diminutive PARISH-CHURCH, which is reckoned among the smallest parochial edifices in Great Britain : for which reason, and being extremely pretty, few strangers pass by without paying it the compliment of a short examination.

The village numbers but a scanty population : and the few rustic dwellings are almost hidden among the trees and rocky knolls.

Observations on the Change

WHICH IS TAKING PLACE IN THE SCENIC CHARACTER OF THE UNDERCLIFF.

The road from St. Lawrence to Mirables (about a mile and a half,) is comparatively uninteresting in point of artificial objects of attraction ; but probably the reader will be quite as well pleased, and agree with the painter and the poet, that....

“ There is a grace in wild variety
Surpassing rule and order.”

For here we have frequently that delightful union of romantic and rural beauty so characteristic of this picturesque country—a bold variety of broken ground and fractured cliff, harmonized by congenial brushwood or mantling ivy ; intervening marks of cheerful cultivation, and the quiet presence of some humble cottage sequestered amidst rocks and trees ;—the public road too not yet confined between high parallel stone walls to the narrow breadth of a town lane : nor densely planted on either hand, to the provoking exclusion of all prospect. In fact, we have, in this *highly favored spot*, many of the genuine features of the Undercliff in all the lovely simplicity of Nature.

We call this a “highly favored spot,” not that it is so eminently distinguished for scenic beauty : no ; but because it is, as yet, spared the wide-spreading infliction of London-like improvements. But we fear, from the increasing

celebrity of the Undercliff as the most desirable retreat in Europe for invalids during the winter months, that it will not long be suffered to enjoy its present native dress and soothing repose.

It would be well if gentlemen who take up their residence at this part of the island, would determine that their habitations should be of a design to harmonize with the demands of local propriety: and particularly, *not to proceed with a rash hand in exchanging* any one genuine line of the place, for “*pretty effects!*” or any of those trifling “*elegancies!*” that are more proper to grace a Chinese pleasure-house, or a metropolitan garden.

“Great Nature scorns control: she will not bear
One beauty foreign to the spot or soil
She gives thee to adorn: ’tis thine alone
To mend, NOT CHANGE, her features.”

The reader, if he be at all an amateur of the picturesque, will, we are sure pardon this digression, and equally deprecate that false taste which too often prefers splendid littleness to noble simplicity. He will have occasion more than once to remark before he leaves the island, how much primitive beauty is injured by fanciful embellishments and injudicious alterations: it would be a solecism to call such *refinements* by the designation of *improvements*,—where in fact it might seem to have been the aim of wealth,

“And all that toil,
Misled by tasteless Fashion, could achieve,
To mar fair Nature’s lineaments divine.”

(*Abridged from the “Vectis Scenery.”*)

A little before we reach Mirables, a gentleman’s house is situated below the road on our left. The traveller would not immediately recognise the place from its appellation, OLD PARK, for there are but very few handsome full grown trees on the estate. No expense, however, has been spared

either in the building itself, which is modern and of good design; or in the decorations of the grounds; but the plantations, though very extensive are as yet too young to reflect any additional charms on the scene.

Here we would recommend the tourist to quit the highway, and walk for the distance of about a mile upon the edge of the cliff towards Niton; the path is perfectly safe; and will be found a most agreeable diversity, particularly as nearly the whole range of the Undercliff is spread beneath his view.

Inquire for.... **CRIPPLE-PATH :**


Which is a romantic ascent to the top of the cliff, curiously formed by the softer strata of the rock mouldering away, and thus leaving deep recesses between the more stubborn ledges.

Proceeding by the carriage-road, we shall presently enter (to enjoy for a short distance a most grateful shade), the luxuriant plantations of **MIRABLES**, a villa more remarkable for its charming locality, than for any architectural beauty.

Contiguous to Mirables are the grounds of **THE ORCHARD**, which is also seated a little below the public road. It is of a much more polished character than either of the neighbouring villas, though constructed according to no particular style.

BEAUCHAMP is another genteel residence on the other side of the way, shaded by a close plantation.

But none of the villas along this part of the island equals, *in all respects*, the one called PUCKASTER COTTAGE (from its proximity to the small cove of that name). The design of the house is at once extremely beautiful and appropriate to local demands—with a bold projecting roof, and enveloped in a profusion of elegant creepers: the grounds too, naturally picturesque, are adorned in excellent taste.

 *The Exclusion of Strangers from most of the Country-Seats* having been often inveighed against rather inconsiderately, we feel it our duty here candidly to state in extenuation, that we know several gentlemen who would freely open their gates to respectable visitors, provided they could be assured of every party being contented with a general view of the local beauties, without indulging a too prying curiosity; and at the same time *would refrain from plucking choice flowers, fruits, and shrubs*, many of which may perhaps have been cultivated by the hands of the owner with an affection of no little solicitude and pride; and of course it is not always convenient to keep a person merely to act as an attendant. But a more decisive reason with many gentlemen who love retirement is, that from the island becoming every year more and more attractive with pleasure-parties, an *unlimited admission* of strangers would at once annihilate all the charms of rural seclusion; it would in fact be converting the flowery walks of a quiet country-villa into as giddy a promenade as almost any popular tea-garden in the suburbs of the metropolis. Still however, speaking generally, it requires only some slight grounds of introduction: and in the absence of the family there is of course less difficulty, it being then a privilege often given to the servants.

SECTION V.

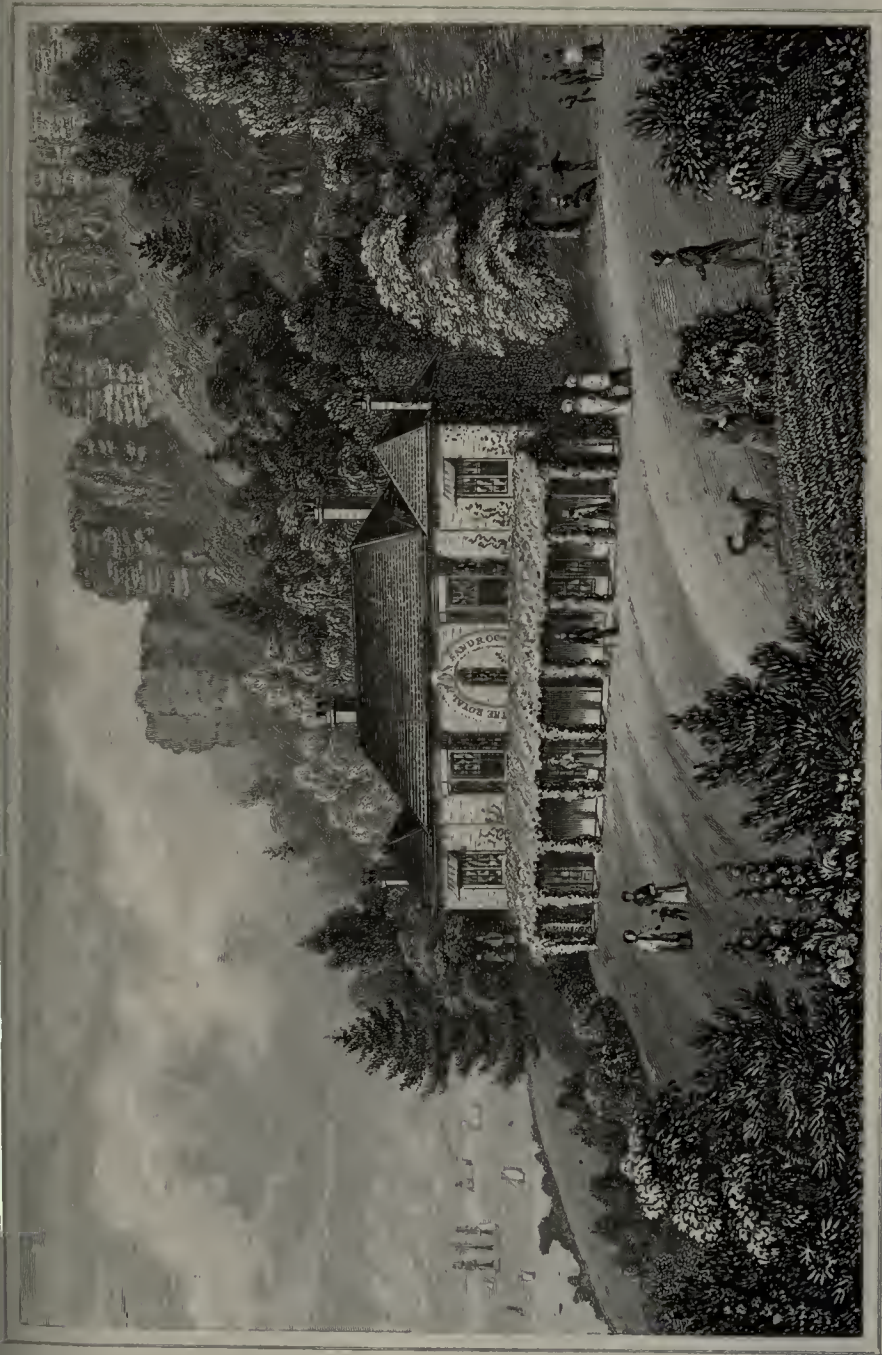
THE UNDERCLIFF NEAR NITON.

The road now takes a sudden turn under the face of the lofty cliff on our right ; and here we are presented with another BUILDING SPECULATION upon rather an ample scale, but on which it certainly would be premature at present to offer any remarks : we cannot however help expressing a very sincere wish that *good taste* may so preside over the undertaking, as to leave no great reason to deplore this fresh invasion on the quiet charms of an extensive landscape, long and deservedly admired.

A lane leads down to the little cove of Puckaster, which is frequented by fishermen, and is amusing enough, if our friends have time to spare.

We now turn our eye from the sea, and presently come to a cross-road—the right-hand branch running northward to Niton and Newport, and the left to Blackgang Chine.

A gentleman's villa called WESTCLIFF faces the road, surrounded by hanging plantations carried to the summit of the precipice above : more in the centre-front is another genteel private residence ; and on either hand several less important dwellings.



A. BARNES. Wotton, I.W.

THE ROYAL SANDROCK HOTEL, NITON, I.W.



The ROYAL SANDROCK HOTEL is a conspicuous object, quite in the rural taste, seated high above the road.—A little to the westward of the hotel is a gentleman's residence called MOUNT CLEEVES, pleasantly situated, but scarcely seen from the highway.

ST. CATHARINE'S LIGHT-HOUSE.

After the melancholy catastrophe of the Clarendon wreck (1836), it was deemed advisable to have a Light-house immediately erected in such a situation as should appear in conjunction with the one on the Needles Point, to be the best calculated to warn seamen from approaching this dangerous part of the coast. It comprises the requisite apartments for the light-keepers; and a stone Tower, rising above one hundred feet from the surface of the ground (besides the lantern of nearly thirty feet more):—a most conspicuous elevation, as it stands close to the verge of the sea-cliffs between Puckaster Cove and the Sandrock Spring, and which are here about fifty feet high. From its great altitude, the tower appears in any point of view rather as some most magnificent column.

It was found necessary to sink 30 feet for a secure foundation—which is a solid mass of masonry. The building was completed in the year 1839; and the mode of lighting has since received several experimental alterations that were suggested as improvements by scientific men. We need scarcely add, that the tower is visited by numerous strangers.

ROCKEN-END RACE is a very dangerous ledge stretching off this part of the shore to a considerable distance : and marks, by the vast masses of stone which in the course of ages have been precipitated from the cliffs above, the gradual advance of the sea upon this part of the coast. Between here and Freshwater are several other reefs, noticed at p. 13.

Pursuing a westward course, we soon enter on a scene of the greatest interest, being a tract of above 100 acres, where a very alarming landslip occurred in the year 1799 ; the ground still exhibits its awful effects, being tossed about in the utmost irregularity ;—now rising into steep knolls, and then as abruptly sinking into precipitous dells : some parts of the surface entirely covered with fragments of the shattered cliffs ; while colossal rocks, half buried in the ground, appear in every direction. The face of the frowning precipice too is more fresh and lofty here than in any other part of the range.

THE SANDROCK CHALYBEATE SPRING

Is the first individual object we come to, deserving notice ; situated in the face of a bold gloomy cliff, composed of black clayey earth interspersed with rock, at about 130 feet above the sea, and which, together with the appropriately simple style of the dispensary cottage that stands nearly on the edge of the cliff above, gives to the whole scene an

interesting air of wildness. It was discovered in 1809, by Mr. Waterworth, a surgeon of Newport.

The water, according to the analyses of Dr. Marcet and others, contains a larger proportion of iron and alumine than any other mineral water yet discovered. It has been found very efficacious in the cure of those disorders which arise from a relaxed fibre and languid circulation, such as indigestion, flatulency, nervous affections, and debility from a long residence in hot climates. For more precise information, we refer the reader to the 'Report' of Dr. Lempriere, and to the high character given of it in Dr. Martin's "Undercliff," founded on the experience of a long practice at Ventnor.

We have now nearly reached the termination of the Undercliff, for another half mile brings us to...

BLACKGANG CHINE,

—“An inauspicious spot,
Since Nature here no happy feature wears.”

The character of this tremendous chasm is the very reverse of that at Shanklin: for here neither stunted tree nor humble shrub is found to adorn its steep shelving sides, which are upwards of 500 feet high, and in a state of constant decay; the soil is of a dusky hue, and the only relief to its gloomy aspect some horizontal strata of free-stone, which have been aptly said to “appear like vast courses of masonry built at different heights to sustain the mouldering hill.”

The most striking feature is a large cavity on the beach; this receives a scanty rill (no doubt the

original cause of the chine), which falls over a projecting ledge about seventy feet high, and when increased by heavy rains, has really a grand effect, especially if viewed from within the basin ; but after a long continuance of dry weather, it is little more than a mere dribble.

But to form a correct idea of the solemn grandeur of the scene, it should be viewed from the water, just at such a distance as would be sufficient to command the whole extent of the ravine, together with the lofty tower-crowned hill which rises immediately above :—or visit it during the portentous moment of a storm, when universal gloom darkens the face of Nature, and perchance some ill-fated bark is yielding to...

“Th’impelling floods that lash her to the shore,”
and it will readily be acknowledged to exhibit as truly an affecting combination of congenial horrors as any spot on the English coast.

“On some rude fragment of the rocky shore,
Where on the fractur’d cliff the billows break,
Musing, my solitary seat I take,
And listen to their deep and solemn roar.

“O’er the dark waves the winds tempestuous howl,
The screaming sea-birds quit the troubled sea,
But the wild gloomy scene has charms for me.”

Uninviting as this sterile locality might have formerly appeared to visitors, yet several persons have preferred it to any other part of the island for

their occasional retirement, particularly during the summer months, when its dreary aspect, as Dr. Martin observes, “is more than counterbalanced by the purity and salubrity of the air, which vies with the mountain breezes of the Highlands in giving elasticity to the step and vigor to the frame.” Westward of the chine, on the lower cliff, is a very tasty residence; and occupying a more elevated position, a row of convenient lodging-houses: and to the eastward two pleasing marine villas, one of which is rather more sheltered from the violence of the south-western gales. The Hotel stands immediately at the head of the winding chasm: three or four neat cottages are dispersed at a short distance: and some erections which by no means contribute to the grandeur of the scene.

A gradual change in the general aspect of Blackgang is in progress,—that impressive air of SAVAGE MAGNIFICENCE which was the *peculiar* characteristic of the scene, and was so warmly extolled by the admirers of the sublime, is being softened down by the concurrence of various innovations: the presence of gay and genteel life; dreary ruggedness yielding to cheerful embellishment and visiting facilities;—and where yawning fissures and deep miry pools threatened destruction to the unwary traveller, there are now excellent public and private roads, and a green unbroken surface,—effected by means of judicious and thorough draining.

But (in a picturesque light,) *we* are perhaps too much prejudiced in favor of simple Nature under almost any condition; for we always look with distrust to the “improvements” of man—so often lamentably out of character,

capricious, and absurd. Our friends must therefore be kind enough to give us credit for describing the INTEREST of the scenery rather as what it was, than precisely what it is.—There is one redeeming circumstance however in the improvements both here and at Shanklin Chine (places we have known above forty years,) that ought not to be overlooked: it is, that invalids and the fair sex can now explore either scene with perfect facility and comfort; whereas formerly it was a task requiring no inconsiderable share of strength and agility.

In a shed at Blackgang is kept the skeleton of a whale taken near the west end of the island in 1841, and which was one of the largest ever caught on the English coast.

Respecting the origin of the term *Blackgang*, the tradition is, that it was formerly the haunt of a desperate gang of pirates. How far this may be true or not, certain it is that no terms could better express the identical character of the scene—the general sable aspect of the cliffs, and *step-like* appearance of the strata.

✎ It would be an omission did we not here apprise the reader, that in going round the island in a steam or other vessel during a fresh gale, it is prudent to keep at such a distance from shore, that the chine cannot be seen to advantage,—often indeed can scarcely be discriminated by a stranger; the best time is when the sun's rays fall so obliquely that the whole chasm is thrown into the deepest shade.

Wreck of the Ship Clarendon.

The most disastrous wreck that has occurred on our shores for the last 40 years, was that of the above ship, on the 11th of October, 1836, exactly opposite the cavern of Blackgang Chine. She was of 350 tons burthen, laden with sugar and rum from the West Indies. The crew were 17 men; and the passengers ten—four of them female. At five o'clock on the fatal morning, the weather dark and tempestuous, land was discovered at but a short distance

to leeward: there was no pilot on board, and in vain were the most strenuous efforts made by the astonished crew to wear the vessel off! In a short time the passengers were assembled on deck: their horrid destiny was apparent—for the ship rapidly driven by the raging elements, was soon aground, engulfed between the mountain waves that incessantly broke over her, and the steep descent of the beach against which she struck. In this horrible state the vessel remained for about five minutes, during which might be heard the convulsive screams of the unhappy sufferers, many of whom were distinctly seen in the agony of despair, clinging to whatever would afford them a hold. But short, alas! was their distracting suspense: for ere any measure could be taken for their escape, the ship was stove in by one tremendous surge, bursting over her with such inconceivable force, as to wrench the hull asunder into a thousand pieces! All on board perished, except the mate and two seamen, who were washed overboard previous to the fatal stroke.

SECT. VI.

From the Undercliff to Freshwater-gate.

Between Blackgang Chine and Freshwater are several other chasms possessing much of the same gloomy character, but on a very inferior scale: the principal of these are WALPAN, WHALE, COW-LEASE and THE SHEPHERD'S, GRANGE, CHILTON, and BROOKE.

ST. CATHARINE'S HILL.

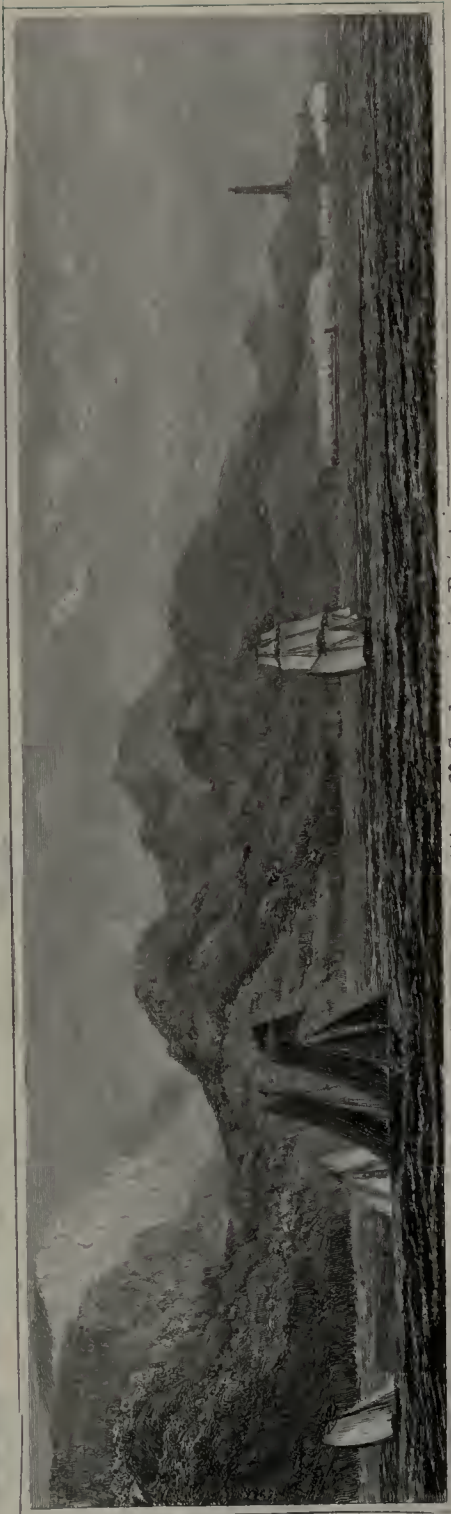
(In the sea-cliffs of which is Blackgang Chine), is the highest land in the island, being 830 feet above high-water mark: it is distinguished by a slender

octagon tower, the remains of a small chapel which was built on the site of an hermitage in the 14th century, and duly endowed by the benevolence of an individual, for the purpose of providing lights as a beacon to ships driving during the night near this dangerous coast. There is also a round tower, originally built for a light-house,—but never equipped, as it was found to be obscured in sea-mists generally at those seasons when its friendly aid would have been the most required.—Visitors should ascend to the summit of the down, to enjoy the enchanting and illimitable land and sea views which it so eminently commands (see section “Prospects”).

The distance between Blackgang Chine and the Freshwater Cliffs is about 12 miles, during the greater part of which we have a very attractive view of the sea, which indeed will constitute our chief pleasure, for in point of grand or romantic features, this part of the tour is altogether destitute. Not but there are many minor passages of picturesque beauty,—charming rural scenes (some of which will be noticed hereafter), and a perspective of the most interesting kind. The fact is, nearly the whole of this district is uncommonly fertile, and therefore either employed in tillage, or laid down to meadow; little is devoted to the less



— P L A T E I I I — The Needles &c.



P L A T E I V — S^t Catharine's Point



profitable purposes of woods and coppice.—But should our friends feel with the agriculturist,

“Pleas’d if the glowing landscape wave with corn,”
they will find the journey not altogether uninteresting, however monotonous it may appear to the impatient eye of an artistic amateur. .

Should the tourist take the usual road over the downs from Brooke to Freshwater, he cannot fail of being highly delighted with the unbounded and truly beautiful prospect which is obtained on either hand. It is really disgraceful to the taste of any traveller to proceed during the latter part of the journey at a quicker pace than an easy walk, supposing it to be a clear day; in the meantime consulting his Map for an explanation of the many interesting objects that crowd the panoramic view.—To the westward the cliffs of Freshwater extend in a noble promontory of three miles, beyond which the coasts of Hampshire and Dorset stretch away in beautiful perspective, till our view is terminated by

“Downs that almost escape th’inquiring eye,

That melt and fade into the distant sky:”

While to the northward, so diversified is the extensive landscape with towns and villages, forests, sea, and river, that it is impossible for us to give even a faint idea of the grandeur of the scene.



SECTION VII.


THE FRESHWATER CLIFFS

(GENERALLY).

~~~~~

This quarter of the island, though promising at a *distant* prospect but little *diversity* of features, will be found on examination to be of the most beautiful and sublime description.

But unfortunately, in general the eye of the traveller first espies this magnificent range of precipices at too great a distance; and embracing the whole as it were at one glance, he feels not those overwhelming impressions which would be experienced, were he to approach them without any previous view. To illustrate this observation, let the reader suppose himself to come suddenly under an *impending* precipice at least a hundred feet higher than the loftiest spire in Europe! and would not the unexpected circumstance excite the deepest emotions of mingled terror and admiration!

 Visitors at Freshwater ought therefore by all means (if the state of the weather be favorable), proceed by water round the Needle Rocks, and if time should allow, to Alum Bay. Every important feature will then be viewed to advantage, but

otherwise some of the most sublime objects could not be seen. If this recommendation be adopted, the party should take boat at Freshwater-gate: land at Scratchell's Bay—then at Alum Bay; thence walk up to the Light-house, and return over the downs, passing by the beacon. Or, if they are staying at the Alum Bay Hotel, reverse the plan.

We shall now proceed to particulars: assigning however to the local boatmen the task of pointing out all the minor beauties, and only call our reader's attention to the more interesting objects which are successively presented in sailing round to Alum Bay.

---

### FRESHWATER-GATE

Is a small valley or break in the beautiful range of downs that stretch through the island from east to west: and here a *narrow* low bank of shingly pebbles interposes between the briny element and the spring-head of the river YAR, which rises in a meadow opposite the lower inn, and taking a northerly direction, communicates with the Solent channel at Yarmouth. Should ever this slight barrier be removed, as is not improbable in some tremendous storm when the waves sweep over it with resistless fury, the whole of this quarter would form a distinct island (at least during high-tide), as no doubt was the case some centuries ago.

Here are two excellent places of public accommodation: the Albion, on the beach—and Plumbly's hotel, close to the *new Battery*, on the cliff above.

### THE BAY

At Freshwater-gate presents an extremely interesting scene in any state of the weather: indeed it is difficult to decide which is the most pleasing,—whether the glowing serenity that pervades the whole prospect on a calm sunny day, when....

“The glassy ocean hush'd, forgets to roar,  
But trembling, murmurs on the sandy shore:”

or the air of wild sublimity with which it is impressed during a storm, and a flood-tide:—

“With terrible irruption bursting o'er  
The chalky cliffs, tremendous surges roar;  
Hoarse thro' each winding creek the tempest raves,  
And hollow rocks repeat the groan of waves.”

The most prominent beauties of the bay are... two remarkable isolated rocks of large dimensions; one being of a pyramidical form, and the other a bold, rugged arch. It must be a subject of speculation with the reflecting stranger, how two such huge masses of chalk could have maintained their position against the united assaults of furious winds and waves, while so much of the main cliff (of which they once formed part,) has been gradually undermined and washed away by the tides: for the distance of separation is at present about forty





PLUMBY'S HOTEL,  
FRESHWATER BAY, ISLE OF WIGHT



yards, and still increasing. On the opposite side of the bay is a large CAVERN at the foot of the cliff—long an object of particular attraction; but its romantic interest was a few years ago considerably lessened, in consequence of one of the curious natural pillars giving away, and the anterior portion of the roof falling in.

At a little distance is WATCOMBE BAY, where there are several other deep caverns that may be easily explored: and also an isolated pyramidal rock of a most picturesque form, about 34 feet in height. This interesting spot is now accessible on foot by a road which has been made from Plumbly's Hotel.

---

From the beach at Freshwater-gate, the land rises to a lofty down of nearly three miles extent, on which a beacon and light-house are erected; the chalky precipices rearing themselves in a gradual progress of elevation to a wonderful height—even upwards of 600 feet above the level of the sea; sometimes perpendicular, and sometimes overhanging the ocean in a most awful manner. "To form a just conception of their magnitude," says Sir Richard Worsley, "they should be viewed from the sea about a quarter of a mile off, when the most lofty and magnificent fabrics of art, compared

with these stupendous works of Nature, sink in idea to Lilliputian size."


In several places the issuing of springs form beautiful cascades : and of the several large caverns found along this sublime range of precipices, two in particular are of a very picturesque character, whimsically named LORD HOLMES'S PARLOUR and KITCHEN, from the fact (it is said,) of that nobleman having frequently retired hither to enjoy a pic-nic refreshment with his friends.

A little further the local waterman will also point to a remarkable object called...

### **THE WEDGE-ROCK,**

From the extraordinary circumstances of a large piece of chalk, precisely the shape of a wedge, being fixed between the parent cliff and an immense pyramidical rock, exactly as if placed there by some gigantic hand to effect a separation. The dimensions of the wedge are between ten and twelve feet square: and the pyramid is at least fifty feet high, by about a hundred feet long, and forty feet wide at the base. To the admirers of rock scenery this spot will afford much gratification,—for we are not aware of any part of the island that combines more of the picturesque in detail, and grandeur in the whole.



 We strongly recommend the young and active, to land here, for the sake of examining so singular a result of accident; and enter the deep alley-like fissure between the cliff and the immense chalk-rock connected with the wedge; also to be satisfied how very difficult it is to form an accurate idea of the **EXTENT** of the broken green ledges in various parts: for the great altitude of the cliffs has the effect of diminishing an acre to the appearance of less than half the size. Let our friends previously calculate; there is little difficulty or danger in landing, and it only requires strength and agility to clamber up the craggy steep.

Having nearly reached the termination of the range, we round a bold angle of the cliff called **SUN CORNER**, and then enter...

#### **SCRATCHELL'S BAY,**

Whose soaring precipices are most remarkable for their bold and varied outline, and the extreme beauty of their flint-defined stratification. Here aquatic parties generally land to enjoy the refreshment of a short walk on the beach; but the great object of attraction is an **IMMENSE CONCAVE RECESS** in the face of the cliff, which presents to the spectator on the spot, the imposing appearance of a

#### **MAGNIFICENT ARCH.**

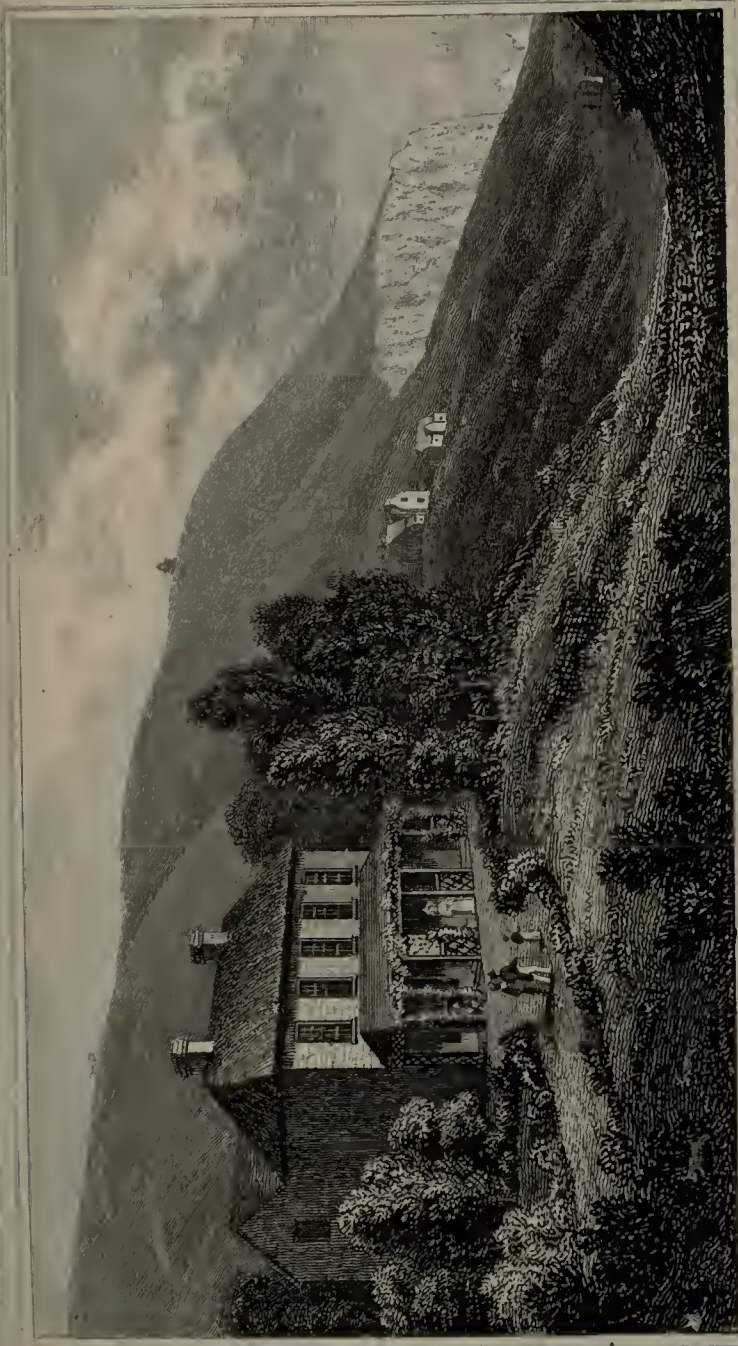
—And such is the true and elegant sweep which it describes, that it more resembles some stupendous work of Art than the accidental production of Nature (for the cause can be ascribed only to the chalk being here of a softer quality than that which surrounds it. No language can give a just idea of the

grandeur of the effect—impressing the soul of the visitor with astonishment and ecstatic admiration: at the same time it is scarcely possible for any scenery to be more brilliant than that viewed from beneath the awful shade of its lofty *vaulted* roof, whose height is nearly one hundred yards, and is ascertained to overhang the beach little short of two hundred feet.

On the north side of Scratchell's Bay are the

### **NEEDLE ROCKS,**

Long celebrated for their magnitude and picturesque forms, and equally dreaded by approaching mariners in tempestuous weather. They stretch out to sea a great distance in nearly a straight line, and are seen from afar off most majestically rearing their sharp craggy heads high above the foaming waves. There can be no doubt whatever but they once constituted an undistinguishable portion of the promontory or main land: and must therefore be viewed as stupendous *monuments of Nature!* demonstrating the vast extent of land that has been gradually removed (in the lapse of unknown centuries) by the agency of certain causes, which are even now in operation: a fact which furnishes the most important theme of reflection to every traveller in the least attentive to the indications of local phenomena.



GEORGE'S NEEDLES HOTEL, AUGINE BAY.





The two most western rocks must date the origin of their separation ages back; defying alike the jarring elements, and the mighty force of the ocean tides by which they have been constantly assailed. It was not till between the years 1815—20 that the third great Needle Rock was completely isolated from the proximate cliff—and previously to that taking place, the connecting portion was curiously perforated by a large arch. Since then other smaller rocks have been formed; and there is every appearance that ere long there will be a very noble pinnacle near the edge of the precipice, which perhaps at some distant period may become a magnificent detached column-like rock, similar to the one from which the singular name was derived: that extraordinary rock was 120 feet high, and very slender; but at length was so much worn at the base by the constant fretting of the waves, that it fell in the year 1764 with so tremendous a crash, as to have been felt for many miles round.

We have now to call the reader's attention to another highly admired part of the coast, called

### **ALUM BAY,**

Exhibiting so much *peculiarity* of scenic character, as to be declared by travellers without its parallel in Great Britain. The extraordinary interest—the novelty and beauty of the scene—consist in an ex-

tensive series of alternating COLORED sands and ochreous earths, disposed in *vertical* strata of various thickness; and so bright are the tints as to be justly compared to the stripes on the leaves of a tulip, or the shades of silk.

Alum Bay is a spot so very remarkable also in its geological phenomena, that few professors or students in the science fail to give it frequent visits. The name is said to be derived from the circumstance of alum having been often found on the shore.

There is a hotel called "the Needles," about half a mile from the beach.

---

A carriage-road leads from Freshwater-gate up to the LIGHT-HOUSE, which is a gratifying object of curiosity to persons unacquainted with the nature of such an establishment: it stands near the extremity of the down, and commands a prospect of great extent and beauty, particularly of the unrivaled scenery of Alum Bay.

These precipices are frequented at periodical seasons by such prodigious flights of sea-fowl of various kinds, "as can be described only by the hyperbolical expression of *darkening the air*." The country-people take them by the perilous expedient of descending by means of a rope passing over a crow-bar firmly fixed in the ground above; one end of the rope being fastened under their arms, and the other end held in their hands, by which they lower and raise themselves from ledge to ledge of the dreadful precipice.

---

## CHARACTER OF THE PROSPECTS:

BY DISTINGUISHED AUTHORS.

---

HAVING now conducted the reader through all the most remarkable passages of natural scenery, we shall close this chapter by adducing a few sketches from the abler pens of eminent and *impartial* writers, by which it will be seen that we have not aimed at too florid a style of coloring, nor indulged in unwarranted panegyric.

We started with an avowal that all *puffing* (so common to *Guide-manufacturers*) should be carefully avoided, and to this we have endeavoured to adhere: but still there is such a diversity of opinion as to the character of many of the scenes, that no doubt our veracity has often been questioned. For instance: the two celebrated Chines of Shanklin and Blackgang are scarcely ever considered equally interesting by the same person: for he who eulogizes the first as the most enchanting of romantic scenes, seldom sees anything to admire in the sullen and sterile aspect of the latter; while many others again as loudly proclaim Blackgang to be beyond all comparison the most interesting of the two, as possessing a magnificence and awful grandeur amounting to the sublime. Such being the divided

opinions of travellers respecting local beauty, we hope our friends will give us the credit of being at least honest in our statements, though deficient in point of taste on those subjects where we may have unfortunately differed.

---

MR. GILPIN,

The celebrated writer on "the Picturesque,"—of all the different authors whom we have consulted, gives upon the whole the least favorable account of the island. But it must be observed, that he made only one short visit of two days, in rather an unpropitious state of the weather, and when the condition of the roads rendered travelling extremely tedious.—He could not have had more than a partial glance. Carisbrooke Castle, Appuldurcombe, and two or three other places, however, *receive from him an unmeasured share of praise*; but the scenery in general did not equal his expectations "in a picturesque point of view."

---

THE REV. LEGH RICHMOND,

Author of "the Dairyman's Daughter," and other popular tracts, has some splendid descriptions of the Wight; but as these form a compilation with illustrative Notes and Plates (price 2s.6d.) it would be superfluous to introduce them here.

---

DR. LEMPRIERE

Thus describes the Prospect from St. Catharine's Hill :—  
 "The sequestered spot in which is situated the Sandrock Spring is immediately surrounded by broken rocks covered by a scanty vegetation, bold and rugged cliffs, and precipices bounded apparently by the sea, which irresistibly for a moment divert the attention from the enlivened but more distant prospect that opens to the west, where the high cliffs of Freshwater form objects of particular interest.



“But upon leaving the Spring, and ascending the heights of St. Catharine’s Hill, the scenery assumes a totally new aspect.—The fine bend of land which encircles Chale Bay, is here seen directing a westerly course for a considerable extent, until it terminates in the extremity of the island, where are situated the rocks so well known by the familiar term of the Needles. Along this range of coast, distinguished by the beauty of its bays and promontories, the Atherfield Rocks, Brixton Bay, the high cliffs of Freshwater, and the Needles, all bounded on the south and south-west by the British Channel, pass before the eye in regular succession, until the view is terminated by the Isle of Purbeck, and in very clear weather by the high land of Portland, which, rising like a cloud upon the horizon, adds considerably to the general effect; and if in the same scope we embrace a fine tract of highly cultivated country, commencing from the edge of the cliffs to the westward of Chale, and extending along a chain of downs that reach from Shorwell to the Needles, we shall have completed our description of this ENCHANTING PROSPECT, so calculated to afford gratification to amateurs of picturesque scenery.”

---

#### MRS. RADCLIFFE,

The celebrated novelist, has in her Journal the following remarks;—“The Undercliff is a tract of shore formed by fallen cliffs, and closely barricadoed by a wall of rock of vast height. We entered upon it about a mile from Niton, and found ourselves in such a Druid scene of wildness and ruin, as we never saw before. The road is for the most part close to the wall of rock, which seems to threaten the traveller with destruction, as he passes frequently beneath enormous masses that lean forwards. On the other side of the road is an extremely rugged descent of about half a mile towards the sea, where sometimes are amphitheatres of rock, their areas filled with ruins, and frequently covered with verdure and underwood

that stretch up the sides with the wildest pomp, sheltering here a cottage, and there a villa among the rocky hillocks.

“We afterwards ascended by a steep, rugged road to the summit of the down, from which the views are astonishing and grand in a high degree: we seemed perched on an extreme point of the world, looking down on hills and cliffs of various height and form, tumbled into confusion as if by an earthquake, and stretching into the sea, which spreads its vast circumference beyond. The look-down on the shores and sea is indeed tremendous.”

---

#### THE REV. P. WYNDHAM

Speaks of the Undercliff in equally glowing terms:—“Here a wall-like, rectilinear precipice of lofty rock extends itself some miles in length, and at the distance of more than a mile from the sea: in this interval of rock and water, colossal fragments of stone, torn or sunk from the precipice by some great convulsion of Nature, are scattered below in the most irregular confusion. These solid masses are of such ponderous magnitude, that they form high eminences of the most capricious shapes; while their intermediate spaces become deep vallies, in which houses are built, and even ashes and elms are seen to flourish, sheltered from the storms and spray of the sea by the hospitable shade of the lofty fragments. Every spot of this land that can bear the impression of a plough, is uncommonly fertile and well cultivated; but the fruitful patches are of all sizes and figures, and the huge rocks, covered with briars, frequently arise from amidst a polygon enclosure of two or three acres.—If the mind of any person can remain tranquil on the first view of this wonderful country, or if he can gaze with indifference on the sublime scene above and below him, I do not envy the cool phlegm of his constitution, but I should advise him to confine his future airings to the level and dusty roads that surround our metropolis.”

## THE LATE MR. WEBSTER,

Professor of Geology, writes :—"Nothing can be more interesting, particularly to those who take pleasure in aquatic excursions, than to sail between and round the Needles. The wonderfully colored cliffs of Alum Bay, the lofty and towering chalk precipices of Scratchell's Bay, of the most dazzling whiteness and elegant forms : the magnitude and singularity of those spiry insulated masses, the Needle Rocks, which seem at every instant to be shifting their position, and give a mazy perplexity to the place;—the screaming noise of aquatic birds;—the agitation of the sea, and the rapidity of the tide, occasioning not unfrequently a degree of danger.... all these circumstances combine to raise in the mind unusual emotions, and to give the scenery a character highly singular and romantic."——And again, "*The view of the end of the Isle of Wight from the Needles, at any time, is one of the most uncommon, and at the same time, one of the most magnificent scenes in Great Britain.*"

---

## MR. RUSH, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

In the year 1817, gives a sketch of the same part of the island. —"In good time we approached the Needles. The spectacle was grand. Our officers gazed in admiration. The very men, who swarmed upon the deck, made a pause to look upon the giddy height. The most exact steerage seemed necessary to save the ship from the sharp rocks that compress the waters into the narrow strait below. But she passed easily through. There is something imposing in entering England by this access. I afterwards entered at Dover, in a packet from Calais; my eye fixed upon the sentinels as they slowly paced the heights. But those cliffs, bold as they are, and immortalized by Shakspeare, did not equal the passage through the Needles."

---





SIR H. ENGLEFIELD,

The celebrated antiquarian and geologist, was an enthusiastic admirer of the island ; take for instance his description of the Prospect from the Downs near Brading :—

To enjoy in all its glory, the complete view of the northern tract, which in detail presents so many separate beauties, we must ascend the chalk range that rises immediately from the woods of Nunwell.—When the weather is clear, it is impossible to describe the magnificent scene which these hills command, from Brading Downs, by Ashey Sea-mark, and soon quite to Arreton chalk-pit.

“To the *north*, the woodlands form an almost continued velvet carpet of near 10,000 acres, broken only by small farms, whose thatched buildings relieve the deep tints of the forests. The Wootton River winds beautifully among them, and beyond the whole the Solent Sea spreads its waters, which in clear weather is tinged with an azure more deep and beautiful than any I ever saw.—The Hampshire land rises in a succession of hills quite lost at length in blue vapour. The inland view to the *south* is far from destitute of beauty, though less striking than the northern scene. The vale between the chalk range and the southern hills is seen in its full extent : and the southern hills themselves rise to a majestic height. To the *eastward* the sea is again visible over the low lands of Sandown, and by its open expanse affords a fine contrast to the Solent Channel.

“The nearer objects on the southern slope are also very interesting : Knighton is bosomed in the richest groves ; Arreton is also surrounded with trees, which group happily with the pretty church, and an old mansion now converted into a farm : and from the western end of the downs, the country about Newport and Carisbrooke is seen to great advantage. *Such is the faint outline of a scene, which, in richness of tints, and variety of objects, surpasses anything I ever saw.*”





## CHAPTER III.

# ARCHITECTURAL OBJECTS

Conspicuous and Interesting to the Tourist.

---

### SECTION I.

## THE PRINCIPAL SEATS.

---

*First—those more particularly distinguished for Architectural Dignity or Picturesque Beauty.*

---

### OSBORNE,

The property of HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, is entitled, equally from public interest and its own importance, to the first notice under this head.—The situation is everyway eligible for the *marine* residence of a sovereign of the British Isles : for it commands a most extensive and *animated* prospect, including Spithead and other naval stations : has a beautiful sea-beach (with a private landing-place) ; and is sheltered by extensive woods and plantations. The original seat was a plain family mansion surrounded by park-like grounds, which have been extended by the purchase of several farms—including BARTON (whose fine old Elizabethan manor-house has received a complete and judicious

reparation : so that the estate is now most conveniently bounded on the west by the high-road from East Cowes to Newport ; on the south by a branch of the same road to Ryde ; on the east by a sheltered cove called King's Quay (as tradition will have it from the circumstance of King John there concealing himself for a time when opposed by the barons) : and on the north-east by the beautiful Solent Channel. Thus compassed by the sea and the best roads in the island, it extends from north to south about two miles and a half, by nearly two miles from east to west ; enjoying the most delightful variety of scenery, from the simple picture of rural life to the grandeur of our NAVAL GLORY, and the majesty of the ocean itself.

The quality of the soil differs very considerably ; but the worst is well adapted for oak plantations ; and the thorough draining and other improvements now carrying on will make the whole admirably suited for agricultural pursuits, to which H.R.H. the Prince Consort is very partial. A great part of the estate is enclosed by a park-fence ; and through the luxuriant woods and undulating grounds, several miles of excellent private carriage-roads have been constructed, much more being in progress.

The PALACE occupies the site of the old house ; it is in the Palladian style (which so admirably admits the application to domestic architecture of the most beautiful features of the Grecian orders). Within the ballustrade of its lofty flat roof is a charming promenade in fine weather.

The flag-tower is 107 feet in height, the

clock-tower 90, the first terrace wall 17, and the second 10. The Royal Apartments are contained in the loftiest part of the building—they are handsome and spacious, and standing altogether in advance, command on every side the most uninterrupted views: at the back is the flag-tower, communicating with an open corridor which extends the whole of the north-west face of the building: and on the other side of the tower is the carriage-entrance, opening on pleasure-grounds adorned with the choicest varieties of ornamental shrubs—thriving with a luxuriance which promises well for the appearance of the estate, when the whole shall have been finished. The builder is T. Cubitt, esq. but the design, we believe, was principally furnished by His Royal Highness Prince Albert himself—whose taste and knowledge of the fine arts, well qualify him for the undertaking.

As it would be almost impossible to convey by verbal description a correct idea of the general appearance of this noble structure, we beg to refer our readers to the Views of Osborne, recently published in the “Vectis Scenery,” and which may be purchased separately at 1s. each.

---

### APPULDURCOMBE,

Was formerly the finest seat in the island: the mansion occupying the centre of a very wide and fertile domain; and altogether formed a subject of



particular interest with those visitors who had any pretensions to taste : whether on account of the beauty of the style of landscape gardening which the grounds displayed ; or for the valuable collection of paintings and relics of antiquity which the house contained,—the latter allowed to be viewed twice a week by tickets readily obtained of the steward in Newport.

With the late Earl Yarborough, (the respected Commodore of the R. Y. Squadron,) this was a favorite residence ; but soon after his demise, we regret to state, the whole domain was advertised for sale ! the many surrounding farms (which were amongst the best in the island) sold off : the numerous herds of deer for the greater part shot on the spot : the most valuable pictures, &c. removed, and the remainder, with part of the library and nearly all the furniture, sold off by auction :—the house also was in the market for a considerable time, untenanted !

That the reader might be able to form an opinion for himself, how far Appuldurcombe was really entitled to the general eulogy bestowed on it, we subjoin the following brief but truthful description :

“The mansion has four regular fronts of the Corinthian order, built principally of free stone ; and a handsome colonnade facing the south. The grand entrance in the



eastern front is through a very spacious hall adorned with eight beautiful columns resembling porphyry ; and on this floor are several handsome apartments, containing the paintings and various relics of antiquity. The offices are very commodious ; and on the first and attic stories are upwards of twenty bed-chambers with dressing rooms.—The building of the house was commenced in 1710, and finished by Sir Rd. Worsley.”

We give also the emphatic words of the Rev. William Gilpin, so famous for his writings on “ Picturesque Beauty :”—

“ Here everything is *uniformly grand*: the house is magnificent, and it is magnificently furnished. The grounds too are laid out in a style of greatness equal to the mansion.”

---

### NORRIS CASTLE,

Is a magnificent edifice, built in imitation of an ancient structure of the Norman style,—plain and massive: though in its general features grand and imposing. The arrangement of the apartments too is considered very judicious.

Few persons would suppose, on viewing the castle at a short distance, that it was a modern production: for the walls are constructed in a way that gives them a weather-stained appearance; which, together with the uncommonly luxuriant growth of the ivy that envelops the loftiest towers, impress the whole with an air of venerable antiquity.

Standing on the steep slope of the most northern

point of the island, it commands a beautiful view of, and is conspicuously seen from, the whole range of the opposite shore, together with the home-coast as far as Ryde and St. Helen's.—The stables, &c., are on an unusually large scale, constructed in a similarly heavy character with the castle itself.

Norris was originally the property of the Rt. Hon. Lord Henry Seymour, who died in 1831; subsequently it was chosen for the summer-residence of their R.H. the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria: and has since been purchased by R. Bell, esq.

### EAST COWES CASTLE

Is a very picturesque structure in the Moorish style—presenting towards the cardinal points fronts of varied elevations, having a most pleasing diversity in the form of the several towers; and the whole being finished with a neat detail.

The situation is particularly happy—commanding a fine prospect of the interior of the island and the River Medina, with Cowes Harbour immediately in front: the richly-wooded banks of Southampton Water retiring in beautiful perspective. The grounds, though not extensive, are most judiciously laid out and improved: falling with an easy undulating slope, and shaded by several handsome groups of mixed trees, of which the kingly oak is the most conspicuous.

East Cowes Castle was built by the celebrated architect, John Nash, esq. After his demise it passed through several hands, and is now the property of George Tudor, esq.

### STEEPHILL CASTLE,

Is situated in one of the most favored spots of that romantic region called *the Undercliff*, (p. 42).

It seems to have been the aim of the architect to combine as much as possible, all the internal advantages of a regular plain mansion, with the commanding form and embellished detail which usually characterize a *castellated* structure. It is not therefore open to an objection which lies against many of the most showy specimens of this dignified style of building—that internal convenience was sacrificed to the production of bold and pleasing contrasts in the face of the exterior; or that it was the growth of successive improvements. Indeed, both inside and out, all appears to be handsomely proportioned and well arranged; while in any point of view the whole presents an aspect of elegant simplicity.

The general form of the castle is an oblong; and the most prominent features...one majestic square tower which springs from about the centre of the north side, another tower of an octagon form at the south-eastern angle; and a beautiful hall-entrance on the east. The predominant tint is a dark gray; but the battlements, quoins, and mouldings are of a light warm color, resembling the Bath stone. This opposition of tints has a most pleasing and chaste effect when closely examined; but at a distance the whole melts into a sober hue like the gray impression of time, and hence harmonizes the more sweetly with the surrounding scenery. Both kinds of stone are procured on the spot.

It was built in the year 1833 by the proprietor, JOHN HAMBROUGH esq.

---



## NORTHWOOD HOUSE

Is well entitled to a place under this head, but we must refer our readers to the article "Cowes."

## NORTHCOURT,

Situated in the village of Shorwell, is a spacious fine old mansion of the age of James I.—placed in the centre of a most beautiful sylvan theatre, for it is closely surrounded by steep and fertile hills adorned with hanging wood. On the north side stretches a swelling lawn shaded by an ancient avenue and groups of magnificent elms; while to the westward,

———"An impending grove

Screens it behind with reverential shade,"

There are also several ornamental appendages dispersed through the grounds; a pretty fanciful dairy; a very elegant mausoleum, a prospect temple, &c., enriched by a variety of appropriate verse.

.....

The most remarkable of the old Manor-houses, next after Northcourt and Barton, are.... *Westcourt* and *Woolverton*, both near Shorwell,—*Yaverland* and *Arreton*, each adjoining its respective church:—several others have within the last few years been either allowed to go to ruin, or *thoroughly modernized*, which is certainly worse than total destruction.

.....



*The other Principal Seats are...*

NUNWELL, near Brading, the most ancient in the Island, having been held by the OGLANDER family from the time of the Norman conquest. The mansion is rather plain; but spacious, and in a good situation both for shelter and prospect: and the Park affords noble specimens of almost every species of forest trees, particularly oaks, several of which are many centuries old, the worthy baronet having long employed every possible means of preserving these venerable chiefs of the grove.

THE PRIORY is situated on the coast three miles eastward of Ryde, and derives its name from occupying the site of a monastic cell. The house is a handsome building of free-stone, placed some distance from the shore; with a fine open lawn in front, and backed by noble groves—the freshness of whose foliage is remarkable, considering their exposure to sea breezes from the north and east.

ST. JOHN'S, a little eastward of Ryde, though not an extensive demesne, and the house has little to boast of but its exquisite position, is really a beautiful residence in every respect—fine timber and diversified grounds, with a marine prospect as enchanting as any in the Island. Close by, and enjoying the same delightful views, is APPLEBY HOUSE, a conspicuous erection in the Elizabethan style.

GATCOMBE PARK lies about three miles


s.w. of Newport. The house itself is an uninteresting object, for though large, it is a perfectly plain square edifice: but the variety and beauty of the grounds, which are adorned with luxuriant groves, and screened by high steep downs,—with the presence of a small transparent lake, on the opposite side of which appear the Church and Parsonage,—altogether afford a very charming picture.

SWAINSTON presents an agreeable landscape on our journey to Freshwater,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Newport—finely timbered, and the house commodious, though of an unpretending aspect.

WESTOVER (two miles further on,) is not seen from the direct road; the mansion is a modern structure in a very elegant style, and well-screened.

FERNHILL, } noticed in the account of Wootton  
FAIRLEE, } village and the town of Newport.

AFTON, FARRINGFORD, THE MEDINA HERMITAGE, and some others, partake so much of the general characteristics of the Isle of Wight seats, as to render local description an unnecessary repetition.

 Under the title “Principal Seats,” no little difficulty was presented where to draw a fair line of distinction; because many VILLAS, especially the *marine*, possess a claim to the epithet perhaps equally with several of the Country mansions—for instance, the Orchard, Mirables, St. Lawrence, East-Dene, and numerous others; therefore the reader must refer to the LIST at the end of the work for a full enumeration; and by the term “Seat” we wish to be understood as meaning a residence *especially* distinguished for architectural magnificence or an extensive demesne, whether coupled or not with manorial antiquity.

SECTION II.  
REMAINS OF ANTIQUITY.

---

THE Island could never boast of many important military structures, and indeed the only instance deserving a stranger's particular attention is...

**Carisbrooke Castle,**

“Which presents a scene of magnificence in ruins,” says the celebrated Mr. Gilpin, “as well worth seeing as any object in the island.” It stands on a steep hill of nearly a circular form, about a mile west of Newport. The principal entrance is thro’ an ivy-vested gateway between the two western bastions, which leads to a second of a higher date opening into the court-yard, and guarded by two noble round towers, which yet...

“A warlike mien, a sullen grandeur wear,”

This view of the castle possesses an uncommon degree of picturesque beauty—the most luxuriant ivy is everywhere seen mantling the grey walls and mouldering battlements, interspersed with the waving branches of wild vegetation: and the surrounding terraces are adorned with the opposing tints of pines and every variety of deciduous trees.

At the N.E. angle, on a mount raised considerably above the other buildings, stands THE KEEP, a multangular tower, to which the ascent is by a flight of 72 steps, of nine inches each; this is



thought to be the original fortress, constructed most probably by the Saxons, as it was described to be in the sixth century a place of strength and importance, provided with a well 310 feet deep, which has since been filled up as dangerous and useless. The old castle covered less than two acres of ground; but it received from time to time various additions—particularly in the reign of Elizabeth, when the whole was substantially repaired, and now circumscribes about twenty acres of land.

At the S.E. angle are the few remains of another ancient tower called MONTJOY'S, the walls of which in some places are eighteen feet thick.

The most amusing curiosity within the walls of the castle is a well 300 feet deep, which produces in the driest seasons water of the purest quality. It is usual to entertain visitors with the experiment of letting down a lighted candle in a lamp to show the immense depth of the well: the lamp, as soon as it reaches the water, produces a loud report, and if a bucket of water be thrown in, the sound is quite startling.

Formerly it was the practice to drop in pins for the experiment, but this was strictly forbidden, as having a tendency to injure the quality of the water—which is drawn up by means of an ass treading inside a large windlass-wheel. The longevity of these patient laborers is not a little remarkable; one performed the duty 45 years, and another 28.



The apartments are large and well proportioned, as formerly Carisbrooke Castle was the regular seat of the insular government: but now the place is sadly neglected, and consequently dilapidations too much suffered to extend.

To go over the whole works of this venerable monument of antiquity, and describe in detail the several parts usually shown to strangers, would be perfectly tedious to the *reader*, though doubtless every spot and fragment must be viewed by the *visitor* with a lively interest.

We must not however omit to recommend a circumambulation on the terrace, previous to taking our leave: the walk is in some parts sequestered and most pleasingly solemn, in other points presenting very charming views; and altogether calculated to raise our admiration, and give a more perfect idea of this beautiful specimen of ancient fortification.

“Sad are the ruthless ravages of time!  
The bulwark’d turret, frowning once sublime,  
Now tottering to its base, displays  
A venerable wreck of other days.”

The castle has been rendered conspicuous in English history by the confinement of king Charles the First, who taking refuge here at the time of his division with the parliament, was unexpectedly detained a prisoner from November 1647 to September in the following year; and on the king’s death it was converted into a prison for his children.

With regard to any other remains of MILITARY ANTIQUITY, it has been already observed, that none have yet been discovered in the island,—the forts of Cowes, Yarmouth, and Sandown claiming no higher date than Henry VIII.

While speaking of “Antiquities,” it may here be noticed, that many of the barrows on the different downs have at various times been opened, but the exhumed treasures have generally fallen very short of what was expected.



#### RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS.

The Isle of Wight had, like every other part of England previous to the Reformation, its full share of monastic and other ecclesiastical institutions, of which the most magnificent was...

#### Quarr Abbey,

Built in the 12th century, and situated in a charming valley near Ryde, on the road to Newport.

Of this once-famous establishment, little now remains, except some of the outer walls (which are stated to have circumscribed nearly 30 acres), and a very small portion of the appendant offices of the abbey, which had been degraded into barns, cowsheds, &c. ; indeed the only pleasing fragment standing at the present time, probably a portion of the chapel, though interesting as a memorial of the past, has been treated with the utmost neglect.

Quarr was among the first monasteries of the Cistercian Order in England, and very largely endowed ; but after its dissolution, was purchased by

a Mr. Mills, merchant of Southampton, and reduced for the sake of the bare materials! Several illustrious persons were buried in the chapel, and some very sumptuous monuments erected to their memory. The merchant's son afterwards sold the estate to the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Thomas Fleming, with whose descendants it still remains.



### The other Ecclesiastical Institutions.

Near St. Helen's once stood a Priory of some consequence; but it shared the same ignominious fate as Quarr-Abbey; for not a vestige now remains but is wrought into the walls of cow-sheds and other farm-offices.

There was also a Priory at Appuldurcombe; one at St. Cross, near Newport; and another at Carisbrooke (vestiges of which may still be traced); together with a great number of oratories, chantries, chapels, and religious houses, amounting in the whole to 70 or 80, exclusive of the regular parish-churches;—and yet not one of these interesting objects has survived the reckless doom to spoliation, neglect, and ruin!—scarcely a spiry fragment sufficiently large or romantic to form a pleasing subject for the pencil, invite the mind to contemplation, or aid the poet's retrospective muse.



### SECT. III.—LANDMARKS AND CONSPICUOUS OBJECTS ON THE HILLS.

It must be a pleasing circumstance to every traveller who wishes to comprehend the course he is pursuing when making the tour of the Island, and who loves occasionally to contemplate the more extensive prospects, that so many of our highest

hills are adorned with some far-seen object—tower, church, obelisk, or light-house,—which serve the useful purpose of different landmarks to direct his steps, indicate the location of any particular secluded spot, or determine the bearings of one place from another. In a picturesque light they are extremely interesting, by imparting a discriminative character of identity and beauty to many of those broad features of scenery which, without them, would be perfectly tame and monotonous.

*The most remarkable of these Objects are...*

CARISBROOKE CASTLE, near the centre of the island. The two TOWERS on the summit of St. Catharine's Hill: and on the north side, the ALEXANDRIAN PILLAR, a noble column, 72 feet in height, and bearing this inscription:—

*In commemoration of the visit of his Imperial Majesty Alexander I, Emperor of all the Russias, to Great Britain, in the year 1814—and in remembrance of the many happy years' residence in his dominions—this Pillar was erected by Michael Hoy.*

OBELISK at Appuldurcombe: GODSHILL CHURCH. YARBOROUGH Monument on Bembridge Down.

The SEA-MARK on Ashey Down—a large triangular erection, used to direct ships entering St. Helen's roadsted.

BEACON and LIGHT-HOUSE on Freshwater Cliffs.

Tall CHURCH-TOWER above West Cowes; and the lofty PROSPECT-TOWERS of Osborne Palace.

---

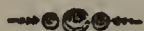


## CHAPTER IV.

# TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

---

The principal of these in respect both of antiquity and population is the borough of Newport: next are the increasing towns of Ryde and Cowes. Yarmouth and Newtown are both very ancient boroughs, and formerly returned each two members to Parliament, thereby giving them a political importance of which they were deprived on the passing of the Reform Act in 1832; and now instead of six members, only three are returned, *viz.* two for Newport and one for the County of the whole Isle of Wight.



## NEWPORT,

On account of its municipal privileges, and its large *stationary* population, may well be considered the capital of the island. It enjoys a most convenient, central situation, and possesses the advantage of a fine navigable river called the Medina, which joins the sea at Cowes, and admits of heavy-freighted vessels to come up with every tide to a commodious quay on the north side of the town. It lies in a dry valley closely surrounded by cultivated hills of considerable elevation, and is well watered on the east and west by copious streams. The streets are disposed with much regularity,

open, well-paved, and of good descent: the houses in general are modern and respectably built,—indeed upon the whole, there is scarcely another little town in the kingdom more happily situated in point of agreeable environs; or of itself more neat and cheerful in appearance.

The greatest improvements to Newport were the erection of a new GUILDHALL and a permanent public Library, which occupy very conspicuous sites nearly in the middle of the town. The Hall was designed by the late John Nash, esq., and is a very elegant, spacious edifice, particularly commodious in its internal arrangements. Here the magistrates of the whole island meet every Saturday for hearing and determining parochial questions or other petty causes, and for examining prisoners charged with felony, previous to their commitment for trial at the Winchester sessions and assizes. The County Court for the recovery of small debts throughout the Isle of Wight, is also held here at the usual periods. The Hall a few years ago received the addition of a new clock, at a cost of about £300.

In the area beneath the Hall is kept the Saturday's market for poultry, eggs, butter, &c.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT INSTITUTION is the designation of the permanent Library, which was built by subscription in the year 1811, at the expense of

£3000. It is supported by nearly all the gentry of the island, and contains a room for newspapers and periodical publications, a library, a room fitted up as a museum for local curiosities, &c. Temporary residents in the island may become subscribers for six months by payment of 25s.

The old parish-church, St. Thomas', was a plain building, with a lofty square tower, and though of some antiquity, had little to call for particular notice: its decayed condition rendering another structure desirable, and the necessary fund being raised by public subscription, the first stone of the new Church was laid in 1854, by H. R. H. Prince Albert. It is of handsome design, and must be regarded as a decided improvement to the appearance of the town. The other places of public worship are...a Roman-catholic, and seven dissenting chapels, *viz.* two Independent-presbyterian, one Wesleyan-methodist, a Primitive-methodist, a Bible-Christian, a Unitarian, and a Particular-baptist. Besides these, an Episcopal chapel, St. James's, of a neat design and convenient interior, was a few years ago opened at the south entrance of the town, supported on the voluntary principle; and another, St. Paul's, on the eastern side, near Barton's village.

The Grammar-school of the town is an object of some interest, from its antiquated appearance: and

also as having been the place chosen for the memorable conference between king Charles I. and the commissioners appointed by Parliament to meet him on the occasion. It is situated on the left-hand side of the street leading to the Cowes road: and a short time since was thoroughly repaired.—Near this, on the opposite side of the way, is seen the handsome front of the new Independent Chapel.

Newport returns two members to Parliament.—The number of inhabitants in the town (which has considerably extended beyond the limits of the borough,) is between 7 and 8000. The shops are numerous, many of them elegantly fitted up, and amply stocked with the choicest goods in every branch of business.


A market is held every alternate Wednesday for cattle: and on every Saturday a general market for agricultural produce, &c.—which in fine weather is crowded by all ranks of people from every part of the island: and presents to a stranger a very lively and amusing scene.

The annual fair is on Whit Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday: but the principal season of rustic gaiety is at Michaelmas, during what are familiarly termed the three BARGAIN-FAIR SATURDAYS, when the country female servants assemble at one particular part of the town, and the men at another, as candidates for new situations.



The town supports five respectable inns, *viz.* the Bugle, Star, Green Dragon, Wheat-sheaf, and Swan, and two assembly-rooms. There are also, a well conducted Mechanics' Institution, several circulating-libraries, private reading-societies, and a public Museum, which though yet in its infancy, is supported with a fair amount of spirit, and will we trust before long be found well worthy the scientific stranger's attention.

Though Newport does not depend, like the watering-places, upon the annual influx of visitors for a season, yet many of the most convenient houses are fitted-up for genteel lodgings. In the time of war however, when Albany barracks are usually fully occupied, the town becomes frequently so crowded with strangers (principally military gentlemen and their friends) that lodging-letting is then of course a profitable speculation with every house-keeper who can possibly spare a few rooms for the purpose.

 If the visitor have time, he would be much pleased with a walk over Mount-joy, to the southward of Newport. Proceed by Node-hill, and there will be little difficulty in finding the path over the summit of the down: it stands as nearly as possible in the centre of the island, and affords...

“A gaily checquer’d, heart-expanding view,  
Far as the circ’ling eye can shoot around.’,

The tourist should, "when posted on the speculative height," refer to the section **LAND-MARKS**, page 87, where the different objects that crown the surrounding hills are noticed.—Advance to Carisbrooke, and return by the New Village.

---

#### THE ENVIRONS OF NEWPORT.

Several rising villages and hamlets immediately connect with, or are fast approximating the town. On the eastern side, surrounded by meadows, is **BARTON'S VILLAGE**:—on the south is **SHIDE**, picturesquely seated at the foot of a steep lofty down called Pan, with the river Medina flowing through the grounds:—to the west, a lengthened street of genteel and comfortable houses, called the **NEW VILLAGE**, some of which are furnished for respectable lodgings. There is also a small hamlet on **HUNNY-HILL**, the north entrance to the town.

The extensive Lace-factory of Mr. Nunn is situated at the eastern side of the town, on the road to Ryde: about half a mile beyond it is a gentleman's residence called **BELLE-CROFT**.

**FAIRLEE** is a first-rate seat half-a-mile north of Newport: the grounds well wooded, and beautifully sweeping down to the eastern bank of the river.

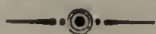
At the distance of a mile on the road to West Cowes, we pass on our right the **HOUSE OF INDUSTRY**, a large establishment for the reception

of the paupers from every parish in the island, and containing generally from 5 to 600 within its walls.

Opposite the House of Industry is the grand military depot called PARKHURST or ALBANY BARRACKS, which are capable of accommodating from 1500 to 2000 men. For many years they were unoccupied, but in the spring of 1842, they were again put in requisition for the reception of troops.

### PARKHURST PRISON,

Situated to the north of the Barracks, and embracing the buildings formerly the military Hospital, is an extensive Asylum for the corrective discipline of juvenile offenders, by teaching them various trades, and otherwise preparing them to become hereafter better members of society. The results of the first few years were deemed so satisfactory, as to lead to the erection of another similar building on the side of the adjacent hill: in both there is now sufficient room for the reception of between 6 and 700 delinquents; and a very good idea of the arrangements may be formed on passing by, as the distance from the high-road is not more than three or four hundred yards. No visitor is admitted except by an express order from the Secretary of State.




## CARISBROOKE VILLAGE,

From its proximity to Newport, seems almost to belong to it, both places being in fact now nearly connected by the extension of modern buildings.

This pretty village is still very populous, though much less so than formerly, when it enjoyed the consequence of a *city*, guarded by the only fortress in the island to which the inhabitants could fly for refuge in the moment of invasion; it is situated about a mile west of the town, ascending a hill opposite that on which stand the venerable ruins of the Castle; in the intervening valley a beautiful stream winds its course towards Newport, sufficiently copious to turn several mills; and the springs supply water highly esteemed for its purity.

The church is of great antiquity, having been built in the 11th century; and its tower is a very handsome specimen of Gothic architecture, proudly relieving itself from the surrounding trees and habitations. There are several genteel residences, and a few good lodging-houses in the village, whose neatly dressed gardens, interspersed with lofty trees, and environed by the most agreeable scenery, give to the place altogether an uncommon air of rural beauty.

 For an account of the Castle see page 83.







*Brannon, West.*

(ENTRANCE TO RYDE, FROM THE PIER).



## **R Y D E .**

---

THIS fashionable and improving watering-place occupies the east and north sides of a lofty hill, opposite Portsmouth, from which it is nearly five miles across. This short passage, from its safety and general convenience, proves a great local advantage, being regularly performed several times a-day by excellent steam-vessels in about half an hour. Besides these established means of conveyance, large-sized wherries are in constant attendance to take parties across upon moderate terms, or for hire by the day : they are esteemed by nautical men to be the finest sea-boats in the kingdom.

The town is distinguished into Upper and Lower Ryde, only from the variety of position : though comparatively a few years ago it consisted of two hamlets, with intervening fields.

The principal streets are very open, clean, and well-paved ; regularly disposed, most of them crossing each other nearly at right angles. Several of the handsomest run parallel almost in a direct line to the beach, thus affording the very desirable advantage of an interesting sea-view.

As the contemplation of an extensive and well-filled prospect is a source of truly refined pleasure with most travellers, it will be no digression

to assist those at Ryde in discriminating the principal features of the surrounding scene.

The foreground of the Pier generally presents a most animated picture,—crowded with promenading fashionables ; and numerous wherries, steam-packets, and other craft, at anchor or gaily sailing about ; a busy scene which forms a striking contrast to the quiet sylvan charms of the home-coast, extending many miles east and west, and embellished by several delightful villas and other marine residences, among which are Osborne Palace (indicated by its two lofty towers,)—and Norris Castle, just beyond. We have the Solent Channel seen from here to peculiar advantage,—on the one hand contracting to the appearance of a noble river, and on the other expanding and uniting with the open sea. The far-famed anchorage of Spithead occupies the centre, with St. Helen's to the eastward, for ships of war ; and westward, the Motherbank and Stoke's Bay, for merchantmen and colliers ; every day increasing or diminishing in number, and hourly altering their position with the changing tides. —On the opposite nearest shore, contiguous to Monkton Fort, is a splendid range of houses called Anglesea villa ; close behind, the immense mass of brick buildings that form the grand naval hospital of Haslar, with the town of Gosport in its rear ; opposite which are the celebrated fortifications of Portsmouth, with its noble harbour affording calm security to the maritime glory of England :—Southsea Castle stands a little to the eastward, and beyond that is the low level of Hayling Island.

The line of the Portsdown hills, on one of which is Nelson's monumental pillar, usually bounds the view to the north ; but in clear weather our range of perspective embraces a portion of the South Downs, which are crossed by the London road near Petersfield : and on the left, the beautiful retiring banks of Southampton Water to the town itself, backed by the woodland heights of the New Forest ;



—while to the right it extends to the spire of Chichester Cathedral ; but with the aid of a glass even to the azure promontory of Beachy-head.

This indifferent outline sketch will be sufficient to satisfy the reader, that few prospects in England can surpass the one obtained from Ryde and its neighbourhood, perhaps even in point of agreeable composition, but certainly not as *a perpetual source of the most amusing observation.*

—ooo—

Of the many conspicuous dwellings which adorn almost every street in the town, the most splendid are the uniform range emphatically called THE TERRACE, occupying a commanding situation, and having a fine sloping lawn in front, interspersed with several noble trees.

Such has been the demand for genteel houses, that a building speculation on that part of the beach called the Duver, and on St. John's estate, near Appley (eastward of the Pier,) has succeeded beyond all expectation ;—a considerable number of first-rate dwellings are already erected, and several still in progress. In every other direction too, we see the most delightful residences being created, so that Ryde is certainly becoming by much the largest town in the island.

In fact the number of handsome houses is now so great that it would be quite futile to attempt to point them out in a discriminative way, either by their local or architectural peculiarities.

The Market-house and Town-hall is a spacious well-designed structure, and affords a proof of the

spirited conduct of the inhabitants, in thus anticipating the demands of a much larger population than the place at present contains.

Another most splendid erection (at least for a country town,) is the ROYAL VICTORIA ARCADE, containing fourteen shops, and a spacious room for the exhibition of works of art: as yet however it has not proved a very advantageous speculation.

Ryde being in the parish of Newchurch, the episcopal places of divine worship are as chapels of ease on the voluntary system, of which there are three: two private property, that have been built some years; and one very handsome church, recently erected by public subscription, on the eastern side of the town. The dissenting-chapels are for Independents, Wesleyans, and Primitive-methodists, —and the year 1846 dates the opening of a Roman-catholic chapel, of beautiful design and most elaborate workmanship, constructed principally at the expense of the munificent Countess Clare.

Close to the water on the west side of the Pier is the Royal Victoria Yacht-Club House, the first stone of which was laid on March the 2nd, 1846, by H.R.H. Prince Albert, with all the imposing parade and ceremony that might be expected from so august a personage officiating on the occasion.

There are several first-rate and secondary Hotels and Inns in different parts of the town, for the

names and situations of which the reader is referred to the List at the end of the work. The lodging-houses are of course very numerous: in all the variety of rank and accommodation, from the humble *myrtle* or *jessamine* cottage at 20 or 30 shillings per week, to the lordly mansion at as many guineas.

During the latter summer months, the theatre is opened by a talented company of comedians. The shops are generally very imposingly fitted-up and well-stocked: and in the literary and fancy lines are several excellent establishments—news-rooms, circulating-libraries, bazaars, &c.

THE ROYAL ISLE OF WIGHT INFIRMARY, just above Ryde, is a conspicuous erection, and is found to be of essential service to the neighbouring poor.—About a mile from the town, near Aldermoor mill, pottery works have been commenced, which, if successful, will afford employment to a considerable number of persons.

---

#### AQUATIC PARTICULARS.

THE PIER. This indispensable accommodation to the inhabitants of Ryde is firmly constructed of timber, and carried out to the very great length of nearly half a mile: thus affording a most charming promenade, particularly to convalescents who require the invigorating sea-breeze. It was first opened in the year 1814, but since then it has received repeated additions of no less than 1000 feet: *viz.* 500 in the summer of 1824, and the same in 1833; and in 1842, the splendid improvement of



a new Head being made sufficiently large to admit of several vessels laying alongside at the same time.

Previous to the erection of the Pier, it was customary, except during the short interval of high water, for the passengers to be crammed into a common luggage-cart, and then drawn through the waves by a horse upon the sands till it reached a depth sufficient for a boat to float alongside, into which they were then transferred, and conveyed off to the packet. The reader will readily believe that this united cart and boat process of landing or embarking could not be very inviting at the best of times ; but it was really terrific to weak and timid persons during the concurrence of a fresh gale, a heavy rain, and the tide perhaps at its lowest ebb !—to say nothing of the horrors of a dark and squally night.

THE SHORE of Ryde is represented to have been about the middle of last century as little better than a continuous waste of disgusting mud ; which indeed is rather remarkable, for at present there is a thick and *increasing* layer of fine white sand, sufficiently firm to support wheel-carriages.

The descent however is so very little, that at low water it becomes almost an extensive level, and after having been exposed seven or eight hours to a powerful sun in calm weather, renders the sea as it flows almost equal to a warm bath.

That part of the beach called THE DUVER is remarkable as having been chosen for the interment of the crew of the *Royal George*, a ship of 108 guns, which sank at Spithead on August 29th, 1782, by a sudden squall, while undergoing a careening of her bottom, when nearly 1000 persons perished.

Near the Pier are the bathing-machines, well attended, and in full operation ; together with hot, tepid, and other baths for invalids.



AN ANNUAL REGATTA has many years been established at Ryde for the very laudable purpose of giving encouragement to the skilful and deserving watermen of the place.

The sailing and rowing matches are for liberal subscription-prizes ; the time generally fixed is in August or early in September :—and now that there is a local Yacht-club of the first respectability, no doubt but the attractions of the Ryde Regattas must rival any in the kingdom.

On these festive occasions, the Pier is in its whole length crowded by well dressed persons assembled from both town and country to view the amusements : which, with the gay appearance of the numerous boats, steam-packets, and pleasure vessels sporting about in every direction ; the varied display of colours ; firing of signal-guns and the playing of music, with the sprightly bustle of the competitors—altogether produce a most animated and brilliant scene.



## THE ENVIRONS OF RYDE

Are exceedingly pleasant, this being the best-wooded quarter of the island ; and the presence of several gentlemen's seats and villas impart to the scenery a lively and engaging aspect. Indeed their number creates a difficulty in the way of noticing them by such characteristic touches, as would enable a stranger to distinguish one from the other.

A very favorite walk is on the strand eastward of the Pier towards a lovely villa called APPLEY, much and justly extolled for its charming locality. About half a mile further is ST. CLARE, a modern castellated mansion : and contiguous, *Puckpool*, another beautiful spot, having a picturesque resi-

dence called CLIFF COTTAGE.—SPRING VALE is a rising hamlet, two miles from Ryde, consisting of newly-built lodging-houses, with a Hotel, &c., most agreeably situated on the beach. At a short distance further is another equally pleasant little village called SEA-VIEW, where the houses let well for summer lodgings : the general name of the place is *Nettlestone*, which boast of several genteel villas, particularly SEA-FIELD, FAIRY-HILL, and SEA-GROVE. Adjoining the latter residence are the plantations of the Priory (page 81 :) whence we should return by a lane which leads up by Fairy-hill to Nettlestone Green : passing St. John's (p. 81,) near which a remarkably neat little church has been erected.

Another equally delightful walk is westward of the town, across the fields to BINSTED. We pass on our left, STONEPITS' and BROOKFIELD cottages, the new Parsonage, and several other tasty genteel dwellings. The Church is a neat object enough, having been rebuilt in 1842. To the north and west of the cemetery are two rural cottages standing in the midst of grounds long celebrated for their picturesque beauty. Our walk may be extended with much pleasure by following a gravel-path through the woods to Quarr (p. 86.)

“ Whose mould'ring abbey-walls o'erhang the glade,  
And oaks, coeval, spread a mournful shade.”





PLATE I — Ryde, from Sea-view



PLATE II — Cowes from Calshot





## COWES,

From being a small maritime port, has risen into celebrity as a place of fashionable summer resort, on account of its superior local advantage for sea-bathing, and its unrivaled attraction for gentlemen fond of aquatic amusements.

These towns (being divided by the river Medina into East and West,) occupy the most northern part of the island, immediately opposite the mouth of Southampton Water.

### WEST COWES

Is at present by far the most populous of the two : covering the side of a steep hill, and the houses being built as it were upon a succession of commanding terraces, with lofty trees, shrubberies, and gardens intermixed, the town has of course a most agreeable and picturesque appearance when viewed from the water. But it must be confessed that this favorable impression is not a little weakened on our first landing ; as the lower streets are irregular and very confined, being occupied principally by tradesmen, who of course crowd near the beach to possess the advantage of convenient quays and jetties : a circumstance that is also

considered by many strangers a great recommendation to their lodgings, several of which will be found in the first style of accommodation.

The upper part of the town, however, is more open and pleasant, containing numerous large and respectable lodging-houses, which overlook the busy and ever-amusing scene of the crowded harbour: besides having an extensive prospect of the Solent Channel, the beautiful banks of Southampton River, and the wide woodland expanse of the New Forest.

There are several Hotels (see the List): circulating-libraries, reading rooms, a Mechanics' Institution, &c.

The places of religious worship, besides the original Church that stands on the hill above the town, are three chapels for .... Roman-catholic, Wesleyan, and Independent congregations; and an Episcopalian church near the beach, private property, and of recent construction; this is certainly the most pleasing architectural feature of which the town can boast, whether viewed near, or from a distance on the water.

Cowes having a clean pebbly shore with a rather bold descent, excellent bathing is practicable in almost every state of the tide: the numerous ma-

chines are well attended ; and both here and in the town are hot and other baths for invalids.

The buildings which chiefly attract attention at West Cowes are....THE CASTLE, built in the reign of Henry VIII, mounting only 11 nine-pounders on a semicircular battery : the dwelling received a few years ago an additional story, and the whole place was subjected to such a variety of alterations, as to give it the modern air of a private residence.

A few yards behind the fort, is a beautiful “ Gothic villa ;” adjoining which on the east is the Club-house of the original Royal Yacht-Squadron ; and beyond, an extensive and well-finished range of buildings called the Terrace. These stand on THE PARADE, which is at the water’s edge, and forms a very delightful promenade during the summer months.

The stranger on landing should enquire first for the Parade, and then proceed along the sea-shore westward of the Castle, near which are the bathing machines. He will presently pass the marine villas of the Marquis of Donegal and Earl de Grey ; when he should turn his attention towards several uncommonly tasty lodging-houses that stand a little above the beach, partly screened by low woods, and in the midst of which stands the new church.

The whole of this quarter presents many very eligible sites for building on, commanding as it does so interesting a marine prospect; and a number of respectable houses have recently been constructed in an elegant and picturesque style. The background is the steep slope of the hill, clothed with a hanging copse: and altogether this presents a scene of considerable interest and beauty.

About half a mile further to the westward is a gentleman's residence called WESTCLIFF or EGYPT, known by its antiquated air, and occupying a small green level on the shore.

We should now return by passing directly under the new church, and then follow the road which ascends from the back of the castle to the walls of NORTHWOOD PARK, a comparatively modern seat, with well-planted grounds: the House is a fine structure in the Grecian style: but most of the splendid furniture and works of art which adorned the interior were sold soon after the demise of its late proprietor, G.H.Ward, esq. (1849).

On the eastern slope of the hill, where the high-road turns off for Newport, stands WESTHILL, a charming cottage-ornee in the centre of a smooth sloping lawn interspersed with magnificent elms and close shrubberies.



In the environs of Cowes are several other genteel residences : MOOR-HOUSE is distinguished by its Gothic pinnacles and commanding station : and near Gurnard Bay is a very pretty retired seat, appropriately called from its situation, WOOD-VALE.

---

### THE HARBOUR

Of Cowes has the high character of being “as safe as any in the British Channel, and by far the most convenient for vessels bound to Holland and the East Countries : it is therefore much frequented by ships to repair damages sustained at sea, and to winter in, until the season permits them to proceed on their respective voyages.” There are spacious Dock-yards at both towns (private property), where an extensive ship-building trade is now carried on. Several ships of war were here constructed in the course of the last century, and latterly many first-class vessels, including some of the large West India and other mail steam-packets.

### THE ROYAL YACHT-SQUADRON

Make this harbour their place of general rendezvous : and have an annual meeting and Regatta either in August or September. On these occasions it is impossible for language to give a correct

idea of the gay and interesting appearance of such a large assemblage of vessels, the finest in the world, of every size and variety of rig, from the stately ship down to the humble yawl. In addition to the matches among the members of the Squadron and of the Royal Thames Yacht-club (whose summer-station is also at Cowes), the REGATTA is generally enlivened by a public dinner and ball—a magnificent display of fireworks—and sailing and rowing-matches for subscription-prizes between the local watermen.

---

### EAST COWES.

This is at times a very busy little place (depending much on the shipping in the harbour), but has nothing particular to call a stranger's notice, if we except the landing-place made for the Queen's accommodation. There is a small church (being a chapel-of-ease to Whippingham); a principal hotel, several good lodging-houses; custom-house stores, and large shipwright-yards.

But the hill above the town will afford a very interesting ride or perambulation, having been long occupied by several first-rate seats; and should the speculation of "THE PARK" ever take with the public to the extent of remunerating the vast

expenditure which has been incurred in laying out the grounds and making the most spacious roads, certainly this quarter will eclipse all the rest of the island in the aggregate of elegant residences and beautiful villas,—each enjoying the most interesting prospects which can possibly be imagined. But as the descriptive plans of this magnificent undertaking have been for some time before the public, it is unnecessary for us to state further, than that some very handsome houses have been built; but the speculation has not yet been carried out to the extent which might have been expected.

In ascending the hill by the old carriage-road to Newport, we pass on our right the villa of Mr. Auldjo: and on the left, SLATWOODS, SPRING-HILL, and ST. THOMAS, all three secluded by dense shrubberies: a circumstance not much to be regretted, especially as our eye will be attracted by the beautiful turrets of East Cowes Castle; at the lodge-entrance to which a branch of the road leads on to Norris.

Proceeding for about a quarter of a mile, keeping the plantations of East Cowes Castle on our right, we shall come to Osborne, and can then return through the Park.

---

Nothing was so likely to give a fresh and powerful impetus to the improvements of East Cowes, in respect of trade and an extension of buildings, as the very fortunate circumstance of Her Majesty having preferred this part of the kingdom for her occasional retirement from the onerous splendor of the London and Windsor courts, or the annoying curiosity of a Brighton populace. But here she has enjoyed all the *felicitous case of private life*—a happy exemption from the too common nuisance of pressing crowds, their gaze and deafening vociferation : and certainly she must be very much pleased with the place,—otherwise would not perambulate with the Prince for miles on the public roads without any of their retinue ; or have attended service at the parish-church of Whippingham (about a mile and a half), walking to and fro by themselves ; no ostentation whatever : and much to their satisfaction, the islanders show their good sense in not offering any other compliment in passing, than the usual respects of common courtesy. We regret however to state, that latterly their attendance at church has been necessarily almost discontinued, in consequence of the rush of visitors there nearly every Sunday during the stay of the court at Osborne.

---

WHIPPINGHAM, the parish church of East Cowes, and one of the neatest little ecclesiastical structures in the island, is passed on our road to Newport. Close by are the Parsonage and PADMORE HOUSE, embosomed in groves of noble trees, and commanding a most extensive and interesting prospect. This is a very pretty rural spot, and to see it will make the difference of only two or three minutes in diverging from the direct road.

---



# FOUNTAIN HOTEL, WEST COWES,

ISLE OF WIGHT





## The Minor Towns and Chief Villages,

—ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

---

ARRETON, four miles eastward of Newport, consists of one long street of straggling cottages, sheltered by a lofty down on the north, and opening to an extensive vale in the highest state of cultivation. The Church is a very ancient structure, of rather a heavy and singular character: its interior is adorned by a beautiful mausoleum to the memory of Sir L. W. Holmes, bart.

Arreton Church is generally visited by parties on their tour, especially by those who have read the celebrated tract of "*the Dairyman's Daughter*," whose tomb-stone stands on the north side of the cemetery, having an appropriate and well written inscription.

BEMBRIDGE is a large village at the extremity of the peninsula of that name, opposite St. Helen's, being the most eastern part of the island. Previously to the year 1830, it was a very obscure hamlet; but owing to the establishment of a horse-boat and other improved means of access, it soon rose to be a place of some attraction—and now boasts of several genteel villas, good lodging-houses, a large hotel, and a neat episcopalian chapel. The south-eastern portion of the peninsula is a lofty down, terminating in the celebrated Culver Cliffs (p. 25), and crowned by a lofty, handsome obelisk, recently erected by the members of the Royal Yacht Squadron to the memory of their late respected commodore, Earl Yarborough.

BRADING is a small borough town, and anciently returned members to parliament – “a burthen” in those days from which the inhabitants petitioned to be relieved: consists principally of one long street, very pleasantly situated about four miles S.E. from Ryde, surrounded by the park and extensive woods of Nunwell.

The Church is the oldest in the island, having been built in the year 704. The first converts to Christianity in the island were here baptised: and frequently skeletons of gigantic size (supposed to be the remains of ancient Saxons), have been discovered on digging in the cemetery. Some pleasing views of the country and haven are presented from the church-yard; and if the tourist feel any interest in the examination of tomb-stone inscriptions, he will here find several extremely well written. *Little Jane*, a name celebrated in the “Annals of the Poor,” lies buried at the south-east corner of the church

BRADING HAVEN contains upwards of 800 acres of ground, covered every tide by the sea, at which time it presents the appearance of a beautiful lake. As the sea comes through a very narrow inlet at St. Helen’s, several unsuccessful attempts have been made to recover from its usurpation so valuable a tract of land; and the famous Sir Hugh Middleton was engaged, and indeed succeeded for a short time, by means of a bank of peculiar construction: but the sea brought up so much sand, ooze, and weeds, as to choke up the passage for the discharge of the fresh water, which accumulating, in a wet season and a spring-tide, made an irreparable breach, and thus ended an experiment which cost altogether £7000. One circumstance was very remarkable: namely, *a well*, cased with stone, was discovered near the middle of the haven: an incontestible evidence, that at some remote period, the spot was in a very different state.

BONCHURCH: see p. 36.

BRIXTON, only a mile from the sea, on the



road from Blackgang Chine to Freshwater-gate, is rather an extensive village; and a few of the more respectable houses let for lodgings during the summer months. The Church is an ancient and picturesque fabric.

**BROOKE**—a pretty rural spot near the shore, three miles w. of Brixton: the Manor-house forms the principal feature; for the parish-church is a solitary erection on a knoll at the foot of the lofty downs that stretch towards Freshwater-gate.

**CHALE** is a considerable village in point of population: but the cottages are very scattered, and the place would be but little known, were it not for its proximity to Blackgang Chine.

The Church is a plain but venerable structure; the lofty old grey tower seeming still to scorn the assaults of the elements, which it has braved for many centuries. The contemplative tourist would, we are sure, feel interest in examining the tombstone inscriptions, particularly those to the memory of the sufferers in the wreck of the *Clarendon*; and in this cemetery have been interred, in the course of ages, without any memento whatever, hundreds of unfortunate mariners who perished on this fatal part of our coast.

**CALBOURNE**, rather more than half-way from Newport to Freshwater, is a pretty village, though little of it is seen from the road in passing—and therefore the visitor ought to take a short stroll towards the church; it has a snug country inn, and acquires both a beauty and local consequence from its vicinity to the fine seat called Westover.

**FISHHOUSE**, at the mouth of Wootton River, comprises several houses and a Dockyard.

FRESHWATER is composed of a considerable number of houses: some clustered near the church, but the greater part widely dispersed. The country here is better screened by hedge-row trees than is generally found at this side of the island.

FRESHWATER-GATE is close to the beach—has several cottages and two principal hotels.

GATCOMBE includes both a village and a first-rate seat: but is so sequestered as to be seldom visited, although upon the whole it exhibits the most charming *inland* scenery of any spot in the island.

GODSHILL borders on Appuldurcombe Park; is a large village, and distinguished by the very picturesque situation of the Church, which is a spacious and venerable pile, standing upon the summit of a steep hill—commanding such an extensive and beautiful prospect, as will as of itself repay the trouble of ascending.—The interior of the church is enriched with several costly monuments, ancient and modern, in memory of various possessors of the Appuldurcombe estates.

HAVEN-STREET: a village with a neat Church and handsome parsonage, on the *old* narrow road from Ryde to Newport, and about a mile south of the present one.

KINGSTON (midway between Chale and Shorwell), has a small church picturesquely seated on a knoll, and embosomed in trees: the few cottages are inhabited by the peasantry belonging to the ad-

jacent farm, which may be said to constitute nearly the whole of the parish.

MERSTONE is a large hamlet on the road from Arreton to Godshill.

MOTTISTONE (2m. from Brooke), is a pleasant village, with a neat church. In the vicinity are some remains of a small Druidical temple called LONGSTONE.

NEWCHURCH is a retired village, about midway from Ryde to the back of the island; very picturesque: the steep road being deep-sunk between banks of sandstone rock, crowned by the old church, and several cottages and noble trees.

NEWTOWN (1m. from Shalfleet), was anciently a borough of some importance, though now reduced to a few cottages; a very handsome little church however has lately been erected. There are extensive salterns, and a safe, convenient haven.

NITON contains many excellent houses and a considerable population: being partly seated at the foot of St. Catharine's Hill, and partly extending along the Undercliff in the direction of the Royal Sandrock Hotel, at the distance of about half a mile from the sea-shore (see p. 48). Besides the hotel just mentioned, there are (in the village) several cottages furnished for lodgings, and a small inn.

SANDOWN is rapidly become a locality of considerable attraction: the firm sandy shore and marine prospects are very beautiful; and it enjoys all the facilities of excellent sea-bathing, with the



advantage of a neat episcopal chapel (erected in 1845), and good hotel-accommodations. The Fort is of a quadrangular, plain construction, surrounded by a wet fosse: and in time of war duly manned.

SHANKLIN: see p. 27.

SHALFLEET is rather a populous village, six miles west of Newport; the church is a large, ancient structure, and of a picturesque character.

SHORWELL: a beautiful rural spot, situated five miles s.w. from Newport, and the cottages resemble those of Shanklin in their embellishment of flowering shrubs; but its greatest charm is derived from the noble groves of Northcourt (p. 80).

STEEPHILL: see p. 42.

St. HELEN's GREEN: a number of cottages occupying the quarters of an extensive verdant square. There is a curious circumstance in the history of its original church, which stood near the beach, but in consequence of having been threatened destruction by the gradual *encroachment of the sea*, was removed about a century ago to a more secure situation: the old tower however was left standing, and is still carefully preserved, for the purpose of a landmark to ships entering the roadsted. The present church is about a mile distant, on the Ryde road.

St. LAWRENCE: see p. 43.

THORLEY, occupying a fertile district between Yarmouth and Calbourne, is of a limited population: and remarkable for a parish-church which is generally mistaken for some spacious old barn.



WHITWELL: a retired village between Godshill and Niton, rarely passed through by strangers making the regular tour of the island: the church is an ancient, plain structure with a square tower, conspicuously seen from some of the neighbouring high-roads.

WOOTTON-BRIDGE (or *Wotton*, as it is sometimes spelt), is a very clean, pretty village, between Newport and Ryde; the houses rising on each side of Fishbourne Creek, which runs a considerable way up the country. Excellent roads have lately been formed on the north-west side of the creek, which affords a very delightful drive, and will probably ere long cause an increase of buildings in that direction.

Under the favorable circumstance of a high tide in a calm sunny day, we are here presented with an extensive landscape of the richest character: particularly so in looking southward of the village, where the river widens to a beautiful lake. On the one side the retiring banks are steep and irregular, and feathered from the very water's edge by the most flourishing oak-woods in the island. This forest scene is contrasted on the other side by the more polished grounds of a gentleman's seat called FERNHILL, whose light and elegant mansion stands at the head of a wide-spreading lawn—sloping to the river, and fringed with a variety of trees and plantations of handsome growth.

On WOOTTON COMMON, which is a mile nearer Newport, are several comfortable small houses, forming an improving hamlet. One of these is the humble domicile of the Artist, allowably designated *Landscape Cottage*.

YARMOUTH, situated at the western extremity of the island, opposite Lymington, is a borough-town, and obtained a charter of franchises as early as the reign of Henry II: contains about 100 houses; and derives its chief support from the shipping which anchor in its excellent roadsted, and the passengers to and from Lymington.

There are three inns—one of which (the George,) was formerly the Governor's House, where king Charles II was entertained on his first landing in the island: there are also several respectable lodging-houses. From its very open aspect and charming marine prospects, this little town possesses a great recommendation to valetudinarians and other visitors during the hottest summer months.

*Yarmouth Castle*, a small fort built in the time of Henry VIII, and lately thoroughly repaired, has little pretensions to military dignity, being constructed in a very plain but solid manner.

On the opposite side of the river Yar is a pretty village called NORTON. At both places are several handsome residences of gentlemen partial to aquatic pleasures, and about half-a-mile beyond Norton are the extensive fortifications of SCONCE.

YAUERLAND is a small village between Brading and Sandown: the Parsonage is a neat erection; the little church is of considerable antiquity, and forms, with the adjoining old Manor-house and several noble trees, a very pleasing rural scene.





Edw. A. Brannon, I. of Wight.

SANDOWN HOTEL  
AND BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT,  
ISLE OF WIGHT.





## CHAPTER V.

# TOURS OF THE ISLAND,

AND

LISTS OF INNS, COUNTRY-SEATS, &c.

---

STRANGERS visiting the Isle of Wight for the leading purpose of seeing its local beauties, should allow themselves at least three clear days ; but even four will be found quite limited, if they wish to *examine* all the features of scenery to which their attention will be constantly invited.

Many parties, however, whose object in visiting the shores of the island is rather a pleasurable summer-jaunt than a particular desire to investigate examples of the sublime and beautiful, content themselves with a cursory glance at the most striking passages obtained during a two-day's excursion. Some indeed take only one day's hasty trip to the Undercliff or to Freshwater Bay.


This difference in the fancy of travellers as to the time allowed for their tours, together with the various starting-points of Ryde, Cowes, Newport, and Yarmouth, to say nothing of the diversity of plans recommended by the post-masters even of the same place, render it quite impossible to lay down any routes that shall prove precisely applicable to all parties.

The best way therefore is, for the stranger first to glance over the account of "*the most celebrated Features of Scenery*," with a local Map before

him, at the same time comparing the annexed regular tours of the island, and he will then be enabled to decide for himself what course would be everyway the most congenial to his particular wishes.

N.B. Visitors quartering at Newport usually take three or four daily excursions: but those at Ryde and Cowes generally prefer a continued Tour.

### CONTINUED TOUR FROM RYDE.

 *The reader is referred to the List of Hotels and Inns, for the extent of public accommodation which the respective localities furnish.*

| FIRST DAY.                              |     |     |     |     | MILES |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| St. John's, &c., (1m.)—The Priory (2m.) |     |     |     |     | 3     |
| St. Helen's Green: old church tower     | ... |     |     |     | 1     |
| Bembridge (if across the ferry)         | ... |     |     |     | 1     |
| Yaverland Church and Parsonage          | ... |     |     |     | 3½    |
| Sandown: the Fort                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1½    |
| Shanklin CHINE and Village              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3     |
| Luccombe Chine                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1½    |
| UNDERCLIFF (½m.)—Bonchurch (1m.)        |     |     |     |     | 1½    |
| Ventnor                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1     |
| Steephill Castle                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1     |
| St. Lawrence: the Villas and Church     | ... |     |     |     | 1     |
| Niton                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2½    |
| Sleep here, or at Blackgang.            |     |     |     |     |       |
| (Or direct by Brading, 19m.)            |     |     |     |     | 21½   |

### SECOND DAY.

|                                            |     |     |     |     |    |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Sandrock Spring and Dispensary Cottage     |     |     |     |     | 1  |
| BLACKGANG CHINE (½m.)—Chale (½m.)          |     |     |     |     | 1  |
| Kingston (2½m.)—Shorwell: Northcourt (2m.) |     |     |     |     | 4½ |
| Brixton                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |

|                                                         |        |                |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Mottistone (2m.)—and Brooke (1m.)                       | ...    | 3              |
| FRESHWATER Gate                                         | ... .. | 4              |
| The Needles Light-house ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ )—Alum Bay (1) |        | $4\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Sleep at Fr. Gate, or Alum Bay.                         |        | <hr/>          |
|                                                         |        | 20             |

## THIRD DAY.

|                                               |        |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Yarmouth (cross the ferry to the new Forts)   |        | 6               |
| Calbourne : Westover                          | ... .. | 6               |
| Carisbrooke—the CASTLE on our right           | ...    | $4\frac{1}{2}$  |
| Newport                                       | ... .. | 1               |
| Poor-house, Barracks, and Juvenile Prisons    |        | 1               |
| West Cowes                                    | ... .. | 4               |
| East Cowes (crossing ferry)—the Park, Norris, |        |                 |
| East Cowes Castle, and OSBORNE                | ...    | 1               |
| Whippingham Church : Padmore House            |        | $1\frac{1}{2}$  |
| Wootton-bridge : Fernhill                     | ... .. | 3               |
| Quarr : ruins of an abbey                     | ... .. | $1\frac{1}{2}$  |
| Ryde                                          | ... .. | 2               |
|                                               |        | <hr/>           |
|                                               |        | $31\frac{1}{2}$ |

~~~~~

*TOUR FROM RYDE, in which Parties
sleep but one night in the Country.*

FIRST DAY

St. Helens	... 4
Bembridge (ferry)	1
Yaverland	... $3\frac{1}{2}$
Sandown	... $1\frac{1}{2}$
Shanklin	... 3
Luccombe	... $1\frac{1}{2}$
East End	... $0\frac{1}{2}$
Bonchurch	... 1
Ventnor	... 1
Wroxall	... 2
Newchurch	... 4
Return to Ryde	6

SECOND DAY.

Wootton-bridge	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Arreton	... 4
Godshill	... $3\frac{1}{2}$
Appuldurcombe	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Ventnor	... 2
SteePhill	... 1
St. Lawrence	... 1
Niton	... $2\frac{1}{2}$
Merstone,	... 6
Arreton	... 1
Wootton	... 4
Ryde	... $3\frac{1}{2}$

Or by Brading, 26. 29

33 $\frac{1}{2}$

THIRD DAY.			FOURTH DAY.		
Newport	...	7	Yarmouth	...	6
Carisbrooke	...	1	Shalfleet	...	4
Shorwell	...	4	Barracks, &c.	...	5½
Brixton	...	2	West Cowes	...	4
Mottistone	...	2	East Cowes	...	0½
Brooke	...	1	Osborne	...	0½
Freshwater-gate		4	Whippingham	...	1½
Needles-point	...	3½	Wootton	...	3
Alum Bay	...	1	Ryde	...	3½
Sleep here or at					
Fr. gate		25½			28½



GENERAL TOUR FROM COWES.

FIRST DAY.

Parkhurst Prison, Barracks, and Poor-house	4
Newport	1
Carisbrooke Village—the CASTLE on our left	1
Swainston, on the right	3
Calbourne: Westover	1½
Yarmouth: cross the river to the new forts	6
Alum Bay	6
The Needles Light-house	1
FRESHWATER-Gate	3½
Sleep here or at Alum Bay.	
	27

SECOND DAY.

Brooke (4m.)—and Mottistone (1m.)	5
Brixton	2
Shorwell: Northcourt	2
Chale	4½
BLACKGANG CHINE (descend to the shore)	0½
Sandrock Spring—THE UNDERCLIFF	0½
Niton: St. Catharine's Light-house	1

St. Lawrence : the Church, and Villas	...	2½
Steephill Castle	... ..	1
VENTNOR	... ..	1
Bonchurch	... ..	1
May walk through the Landslip to Shanklin.		
East End ; termination of the Undercliff		1
Here leave the carriage to look down on the Landslip.		
Luccombe Chine	... ..	0½
Shanklin CHINE and Village	... ..	1½
Sleep here, or at Ventnor.		<hr/>
		24

THIRD DAY.

Sandown : the Fort	... ..	3
Yaverland Church and Parsonage	...	1½
Through Brading (one and a half miles), or		
Bembridge.—Cross the ferry	...	3½
St. Helen's Green ; old church-tower	...	1
The Priory, sequestered on the right	...	1
Ryde	... ..	3
Wootton-bridge : Fernhill	... ..	3½
Whippingham Church : Padmore	...	3½
East Cowes : Osborne, The Park, Norris and East Cowes Castles	... ..	2
		<hr/>
(Or direct by Brading 19m.)		22

**TOURS FROM NEWPORT.**

NORTH-EASTERN TOUR.

Wootton : Fernhill	... ..	3½
Quarr—ruins of an abbey on the left	...	1½
Ryde	... ..	2
St. John's (1m.)—St. Clare ; Puckpool (½m.)		1½
The Priory, sequestered on the left	...	1½
St. Helen's Green : old church-tower	...	1
(Through Brading to Yaverland, 3½m.)		

Bembridge (crossing the ferry)	...	1
Yaverland Church and Parsonage	...	3½
Sandown: the Fort	... ..	1½
Brading Down: Nunwell on the right	...	3
Sea-mark on Asheys Down	... ..	2
Down-end: Arreton on the left	...	2
Newport	... ..	3

(Or direct by Brading, 24m.)

27

SOUTHERN TOUR.

Arreton: the Church	... ..	4
Shanklin: the CHINE	... ..	6
Luccombe Chine	... ..	1½
UNDERCLIFF, commencing at East End		0½
Bonchurch: old Church	... ..	1
Ventnor	... ..	1
Steephill Castle	... ..	1
St. Lawrence: the Villas, and Church	...	1
Niton: St. Catharine's Lighthouse	...	2½
Sandrook Spring	... ..	1
BLACKGANG CHINE	... ..	0½
Return to Niton over St. Catharine's Hill		2
Rookley (4½m.)—and Newport (4½m.)		9
(Or return by Chale, Chillerton, and Gatcombe.)		31

WESTERN TOUR.

Carisbrooke Village—the CASTLE on our left		1
Shorwell: Northcourt	... ..	4
Brixton	... ..	2
Mottistone (1m.)—Brooke: the Church		3
FRESHWATER-Gate	... ..	4
The Needles Light-house	... ..	3½
Alum Bay	... ..	1
Yarmouth	... ..	6
Calbourne: Westover	... ..	6


Swainston ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m.)—	Carisbrooke Village (3m.)	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Newport	... ..	1
(Or return from Yarmouth by Shalfleet and Park-hurst, 35m.)		<hr/> 36

A Voyage Round the Island

Will be found very interesting, whether in a steam-packet, which generally runs it in five or six hours, or in a sailing-vessel or large wherry, with two or more hands. The steamer has the advantage of certainty in point of time, and perhaps is usually more agreeable to persons of a timid disposition ; but a vessel or large wherry will be found to afford the most amusement, and if wind and tide be favorable, one long day will be sufficient.

If we leave Cowes to the eastward, the most remarkable places that present themselves are.... Norris, Osborne, Wootton, Binstead, Ryde, Appley, &c. ; St. Clare, Spring-vale, Nettlestone, Priory, St. Helen's, Brading haven, Bembridge. As we round the Culver Cliffs, we open the beautiful sweep of Sandown bay, with the village of Sandown, and the romantic chimes of Shanklin and Luccombe : the distance however at which we view these and other highly interesting features, is frequently far too great to enable us to appreciate their individual charms. The Undercliff follows,

and we successively admire the Landslip, the beautiful situation of Ventnor, Steephill, St. Lawrence, and the villas of Old Park, Mirables, the Orchard, and Puckaster Cottage. Leaving St. Catharine's Light-house, we soon reach Blackgang Chine, above which is St. Catharine's hill. From the Undercliff, though we have a glimpse of Brixton, Mottistone, and Brook, the prospect is comparatively tame till we approach the Freshwater Cliffs: and as we enter Scratchell's bay, the scene is one of dazzling grandeur. Having left the Needles and Alum bay, the two new forts and Hurst Castle will soon attract our attention; and a little beyond, Yarmouth; when, after passing Thorness bay and Newtown river, we shall shortly find ourselves again in the busy harbor of Cowes.

 A full description of every object of interest may be had in "Brannon's Voyage Round the Island" (with seven views on steel), price One Shilling.



HINTS TO PEDESTRIANS

Making the Tour of the Island.

The Pedestrian who would realise the chief advantages which his mode of travelling offers for the full enjoyment of the charms of natural scenery, should be able to leave the hot and dusty highways, for the pleasures of cool and romantic footpaths: as these however are frequently difficult for the stranger to find, we shall here direct his attention to a few of the most eligible.

NEWPORT TO SHANKLIN—Over St. George's Down: at Branston-cross turn to the right, through Apse farm and copse, and across the fields.

—**TO VENTNOR**.—As above to Apse, where a path to the right leads by Cooke's castle over the downs to Ventnor. Or instead of going through Arneton, take lane to Budbridge—footpath on the left to Godshill—and through Appuldurcombe; the last has occasionally been closed.

—**TO FRESHWATER**.—A splendid, refreshing walk over the downs, but, as indicated on the map, intricate, being for some distance on the open turf, and crossed by innumerable cart-tracks.

FRESHWATER-GATE TO ALUM BAY.—Between these places endeavour to take boat one way,—returning by the edge of the cliffs.

ALUM BAY TO YARMOUTH.—Edge of the cliffs—good geological coast. Pass the two new Ports.

FROM SANDOWN TO SHANKLIN.—On the shore—but mind the tide: or through Lake—and a little beyond—path on the left to edge of the cliff—follow to the right.

SHANKLIN TO BONCHURCH.—Path by Luccombe, and through the Landslip.

ALONG THE UNDERCLIFF.—High-road best; at Mirables, ascend Cripple-path to the summit of the cliff, to enjoy the magnificent prospect of sea and land; a path hence leads to the village of Niton.


NITON TO BLACKGANG.—May go over St. Catharine's down—a splendid view: or take the shore, by Light-house—a perfect scene of wild grandeur: highway, good.

BLACKGANG TO FRESHWATER.—Road by Shorwell, and through Brixton; or take shore and cliffs—a fine geological study—to Brook.

The Passage and Conveyance.

MAY, 1857.

BY STEAM-PACKETS.

 *Strangers are particularly requested to attend to the following observations.*—We have always made it a point to delay the publication of our Guides to as late a period as we well could (often to a degree of inconvenience), in order that our readers may be furnished with an accurate statement of the precise time of the several passage-vessels starting to or from the island: but this, instead of an advantage, often proved a disappointment: for perhaps a change of hours unexpectedly took place within a week or fortnight afterwards, in consequence of some new regulation in the time of the railways, or from some motive on the part of one or other of the steam-packet companies. As this uncertainty is as likely to be great as ever, we here insert the present times rather to give an idea of the extent of accommodation on the different passages, than as a correct guide for those persons to whom it is of important consequence to know exactly to a minute; especially as strangers may easily procure the requisite information at the local inns, on board the packets, or at the railway or booking offices.

Between Southampton, Cowes, Ryde, & Portsmouth.

Southampton to Cowes—2.0 9.0 10.45—2.0 4.30 6.15

Later boat occasionally during the Summer season.

Ryde—9.0 — 2.0

Portsmouth—9.0 — 2.0

Portsmouth to Cowes—8.40 — 3.0

Southampton—8.40 — 3.0

Ryde to Cowes—9.10 — 3.30

Southampton—9.10 — 3.30

Cowes to Southampton—7.0 9.0 10.30—12.45 4.45 8.45

Ryde—10.30 — 3.30

Portsmouth—10.30 — 3.30

On Sundays the passages are less frequent.

The *Excursion round the Island* is made by one of these vessels, once every week, weather permitting, during the season,—leaving Southampton, and calling at Cowes.

Portsmouth, Portsea, Gosport, and Ryde.

From Portsea———8.20 11.15 2.30 4.25 6.20 8.15

— Gosport—— 8.10 11.20 2.25 4.15

— Portsmouth—8.30 11.30 2.40 4.30 6.30 8.20

— Ryde—7.15 9.45 1.0 3.30 5.30 7.15

Several extra passages during the season.

On Sundays—from Portsea at 8.45 12.30 2.35 5.15 7.0

— Ryde 7.50 10.0 1.35 4.15 6.0

The *Excursion round the Island* is made by one of this Company's fast boats every Monday and Thursday during the summer, when the weather is at all favorable.

From LYMINGTON—Steamers run to Yarmouth three or four times a-day: and one, the *Solent*, every morning to Cowes, whence she proceeds on alternate days to Southampton and Portsmouth—and by suiting her time to that of the other steamers, maintains a daily communication between all these places—during the season.

Regular Sailing Passage-boats.

FROM COWES to NEWPORT, daily: the hours depending upon the state of the tide.

From WOOTTON to PORTSMOUTH at 9, re-turning about 2½.

To POOLE the sailing-hoys run twice a-week calling off Cowes and Yarmouth.

Land-Conveyances.

The STAGE-COACHES and Omnibuses.—

(Usual times during the Summer.)

Most of the coaches omit travelling on Sundays.

Newport to Ryde—8.0 9.30 1.15 3.45 4.30 5.0

Ryde to Newport—9.30 9.45 10.30 12.15 3.15 6.0 7.0

The late coaches cease running from October to June.

Newport to West Cowes—8.15 9.40 12.0 3.20 5.0

W. Cowes to Newport—10.0 12.0 3.0 6.45

W. Cowes to Ventnor—by Godshill, about—3.0 p.m.

————— —by Blackgang, about—10.30....and
returns by same route about—3. This is a summer coach.

Ventnor to W. Cowes—by Godshill, about—10.0 a.m.

————— Newport—the above coaches ; & vans all the year.

Ryde to Ventnor—10.0 10.30 12.30 3.15 7.0

Ventnor to Ryde—7.30 10.0 10.30 3.0 5.0

Blackgang to Ventnor,—Ventnor to Blackgang,—twice each way [summer]. This coach is for the purpose of opening Blackgang to the increased facilities for travelling ; and to afford the visitor time to explore the place.

It will be seen that by these conveyances, Visitors arriving at Cowes or Ryde in the morning may make the tour of one-half the island the same day. If from Ryde in the morning, they would be returned to Cowes in time for the train to London, and the same from the latter to the former place.

But here we must caution our friends, as we did respecting the steam-packets, that frequent alterations take place in the hours of starting, perhaps in consequence of some change made by the railway, but as often induced by the caprice of the rival speculators ; some of them continuing throughout the year, and others running only during the summer.



The CARRIERS.—These of late have so increased, that there is scarcely a village without one or more to Newport or Ryde,—between the latter places, and Cowes and Ventnor, there are several carts, vans, and omnibuses daily : and from the less populous places, one every other day.

List of the Principal Inns.

NEWPORT,—the Bugle ; Mew. Star ; Lambert. Wheat-sheaf, Corn-market ; J. Read. Green Dragon, Pyle-street ; Warburton. Swan, High-street ; Cooke.

RYDE,—Pier. Hotel ; Barnes. Hotel, Union-street ; Yelf. Kent, Union-street : Roper. Crown, near the Theatre ; Woodrow. Eagle ; Newman. Star, upper part of the town ; Elkins. York Hotel & Boarding-ho. ; Oldfield.

WEST COWES,—Fountain, on the quay; Bull. Vine, ad. joining ditto; Furner. Marine Hotel, Parade; Aris. Globe, ditto; Heyward.

EAST COWES,—Medina Hotel; —. Prince of Wales, near toll-gate; Simpson.

YARMOUTH,—George; Bright. Bugle; Butler.

FRESHWATER BAY,—Plumbly's Hotel; Lambert. Albion ditto; Murrow. Needles Hotel, Alum Bay; Beazley.

BLACKGANG CHINE,—Hotel; Jones.

NITON,—Royal Sandrock Hotel; G. Bush. Boarding-ho. on the shore; Jones. White Lion, Niton Vil.; Bright.

VENTNOR,—Royal Hotel; Bush. Marine Hotel; Bush. St. Boniface Hotel; Bailey. Esplanade Hotel; Cummings. Crab and Lobster; Cass.

BONCHURCH,—Hotel; Ribbands.

SHANKLIN,—Williams's Hotel; Hollier. Hotel; Daish.

SANDOWN,—Hotel and Boarding-horse; Hale. Star and Garter; Brooks. King's Head; Evans.

BEMBRID E.—Hotel, on the beach; Powell.

BRADING,—Wheat Sheaf; Wale.

CALBOURNE,—Sun; Woodford.

GODSHILL,—Griffin; Jefferies.

BRIXTON,—New Inn; Downer.

LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL

SEATS & COUNTRY-VILLAS,

With the Names of their Proprietors or Occupiers.

In those instances where no Occupiers' Names appear, such Residences are generally to be sold or let.

OSBORNE—HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

APPULDURCOMBE,	R.W. Williams, Esq.
Aston Manor-house,	B. Cotton, esq.
Appley, near Ryde,	J. Hyde, esq.
Appley-towers,	G. Young, Esq.
Arreton Manor,	F. Roach, esq.
Beauchamp, Undercliff,	—
Bellecroft, near Newport,	W. Major Cooke, esq.
Bembridge Parsonage,	Rev. J. Le Mesurier.
Binstead Cottage,	Major-Gen. Lord Downes.
—Parsonage,	Rev. Philip Hewitt.

Blackwater Cottage,	J.B. Rutherford, esq.
Bordwood, near Newchurch,	Sir Walter Stirling, bt.
Brixton Parsonage,	Rev. E. Mc'All.
Brook Manor-house,	Charles Seeley, esq.
Brook Rectory,	Rev. T. Gage.
Brookfield Cottage, Binstead,	—————
Calbourne Parsonage,	Rev. A. M. Hoare.
Calbourne Lodge,	—————
Carisbrooke House,	the Misses Gunter.
Castlehurst, nr. Carisbrooke,	H. Pinnock, esq.
Chale Abbey,	W. H. Barton, esq.
Chale Parsonage,	Rev. A. Gother.
Chillerton,	W. Harvey, esq.
Corstorphine-lodge, Ryde,	J.P. Lind, esq.
EAST COWES CASTLE,	G. Tudor, esq.
East-cliff, Bembridge,	Sir Gilbert East, bt.
East Dene, Bonchurch,	Admiral Swinburne.
Egypt House, nr. W Cowes,	Robert White, esq.
FAIRLEE, nr. Newport,	—————
Fairlee Cottage,	R. C. Shedden, esq.
Fairy-hill, Nettlestone,	W.A. Glynn, esq., D.C.L.
Farringford, Freshwater,	A. Tennyson, esq.
FERNHILL, Wootton,	Samuel Sanders, esq.
GATCOMBE	Colonel Daly.
Gatcombe Rectory,	Rev. Dr. Barrow.
Godshill Vicarage,	Rev. T. Ratliff.
Hampstead, near Shalfleet,	J. Pennithorne, esq.
Haven-street Parsonage,	Rev. F. Kent
Haylands, south of Ryde,	Captain Locke.
Hill-grove, Bembridge,	Hon. A. H. Moreton.
Hill-lodge, Freshwater,	Capt, Hamond, R.N.
Holmwood, Ryde,	T.B. Maynard, esq.
Kite-hill, Wootton,	D. Hollingsworth, esq.
Lowcliff Lodge, Blackgang,	—————
Marvel, near Newport,	J. Harvey, esq.
Medina Hermitage, nr. Niton,	T. Hawkins, esq.
Mirables, Undercliff,	James Coape, esq.
Mount Cleeves, ditto,	—————

Mottistone,	R. Jessett, esq.
New Close, s.w. of Newport,	T.B. Robinson, esq.
Ningwood House,	Rev. T. Cottell.
Niton Parsonage,	Rev. R. Dixon.
NORRIS CASTLE,	R. Bell, esq.
NORTHCOURT, Shorwell,	Sir H.P. Gordon, bt.
NORTHWOOD HOUSE,	W. G. Ward, esq.
Norton Lodge, Freshwater,	Sir G.E. Hamond, bt.
NUNWELL, near Brading,	Sir H. Oglander, bt.
Oakhill, near Ryde,	T.M. Leacock, esq.
Old Park, Undercliff,	—————
Orchard, ditto,	Dowager Lady Gordon.
Padmore, Whippingham,	Rev. James Jolliffe.
Pidford, near Rookley,	—————
Pitt-place, Mottistone,	S. Walmisley, esq.
PRIORY, N. of St. Helen's,	R.A. Gray, esq.
Puckaster Cottage, Undercliff,	C. Vine, esq.
Puckpool, east of Ryde,	— Spode, esq.
Ryde House,	Miss Player.
Rookley Cottage,	John Woodward, esq.
Rosiere, Niton,	— Savery, Esq.
Sandown Parsonage,	Rev. W. Thomas.
Sealand Cottage, Blackgang,	R. Pinnock, esq.
St. Clare, east of Ryde,	Col. Vernon Harcourt.
ST. JOHN's, ditto,	A.F. Hamilton, esq.
St. Lawrence Villa,	Earl Yarborough.
————— The Cott,	Hon. Mrs. Pelham.
St. Thomas' Villa, E. Cowes,	Miss Barrington.
Sea-grove, Nettlestone,	W. Gardiner, esq.
Sea-field, ditto,	Henry Beach, esq.
Shorwell Vicarage,	Rev. T. Renwick.
Spring-field, ditto,	—————
Shide Cottage, nr. Newport,	— Faulkner, Esq.
——— House,	Mrs. Foquett.
Steane Villa, Bembridge,	E. D. Featon, esq.
St. Helen's House,	Capt. Edwd. Oakes.
Shanklin Parsonage,	Rev. W. Southouse.
Slatwoods, near East Cowes,	Miss Shedden.

Spring-hill, ditto,	Misses Shedden.
Southlands House, Blackgang,	Rev. E. Rider.
Standen, south of Newport,	General Evelegh.
STEEPHILL CASTLE,	A. Hambrongh, esq.
Stickworth, Arreton,	C. Halson, esq.
St. John's Parsonage, nr. Newport,	Rev. R. Hollings.
Stonepits' Cottage, Binstead,	Capt. Brigstocke.
SWAINSTON, nr. Calbourne,	Sir J. Simeon, bart.
The Battery, Sandown,	Thomas Webster. esq.
The Farm, nr. Newport,	C. W. Estcourt, esq.
The Marina, Norton,	Capt. Crozier.
Uplands, east of Ryde,	C. Payne, esq.
Upton House, south of Ryde,	Admiral Hoare.
Ventnor Parsonage,	Rev. J. Marland.
Wacklands, nr. Newchurch,	William Thatcher, esq.
WESTOVER, Calbourne,	Hon. A'Court Holmes.
Westhill, Cowes,	the Misses Ward.
———— Norton,	Capt. Crozier.
Westcliff, Niton,	Captain Kerr.
Westridge, east of Ryde,	Mrs. Young.
Westbrook, ditto,	P. Mahon, esq.
Whitcomb, near Gatecombe,	Mrs. Hughes.
Widcomb Manor, nr. Whitwell,	W. H. Dawes, esq.
Woodlands, east of Ryoe,	Mrs. Percival.
Woodside, near Wootton,	————
Woodvale, near Gurnard,	Admiral Ffarington.
Wootton Lodge,	F. W. Popham, esq.
Wootton Rectory,	Rev. W. H. Scott.
Yaford, near Shorwell,	James Jolliffe, esq.
Yaverland Parsonage,	Rev. R. Sherson.



**RETURN
TO →**

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
202 Main Library

Brannon, C.

W6B6

Isle of Wight.

DA670
W6B6

86714

LIBRARY

